

UC-NRLF



8 4 139 702

HAZARD'S REPORT  
ON THE  
POOR & INSANE.











1840

1840

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, D.C.

REPORT  
ON  
THE POOR AND INSANE  
IN  
RHODE-ISLAND;

MADE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS JANUARY SESSION, 1851.

---

BY THOMAS R. HAZARD.

---

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

---

PROVIDENCE:  
JOSEPH KNOWLES, STATE PRINTER.  
1851.



HV86  
 R4H3

# INDEX.

	Page.
REPORT, - - - - -	9
Queries addressed to Town Councils, - - -	9
Asylum for the poor of the town of Newport, -	10
Statistics of the poor of do do - -	10
Replies to queries from do do - -	12
Asylum for the poor of the town of Portsmouth, -	13
Statistics of do do do - -	13
Replies to queries from do do - -	13
Asylum for the poor of the town of Middletown, -	14
Coggeshall Joshua, letter in reply to queries, - -	14
Asylum for the poor for the town of Little-Compton,	15
Statistics of do do do do - -	15
Wilber Otis, letter in reply to queries, - - -	16
Poor of the town of New-Shoreham, - - - -	16
Sheffield George G. letter relating to the poor, -	16
Replies to queries received from New-Shoreham, - -	17
Poor of the town of Jamestown, - - - -	17
Carr George C. letter in answer to queries, - -	18
Poor of the town of Tiverton, - - - -	19
Statistics of the poor of do - - - -	19
Sheffield William P. letter in reply to queries, - -	20
Poor of the town of Bristol, - - - -	21
Statistics of the poor of Bristol, - - - -	21
Bullock N. letter received in answer to queries, - -	22
Poor of the town of Warren, - - - -	23
Statistics of the poor of Warren, - - - -	23
Replies received in answer to queries, - - -	23
Collins Haile, letter from, relative to the 'Campbell fund,'	24
Poor of the town of Barrington, - - - -	25
Poor of the city of Providence, - - - -	25
Statistics of the poor of Providence, - - -	25
Burgess Thomas M. letter received in answer to queries,	28
Dexter donation for the poor of the city of Providence,	29
Tillinghast do do do do	30

Asylum for the poor of the town of North-Providence,	30
Statistics of the poor of do do do	30
Wilkinson D. letter in answer to queries, - -	31
Asylum for the poor of the town of Smithfield, - -	32
Statistics of the poor of do do - -	32
Buffum Thomas, letter in answer to queries, - -	32
Asylum for the poor of the town of Cumberland, -	34
Statistics of do do do -	34
Brown Fenner, letter received in answer to queries, -	35
Poor of the town of Burrillville, - - - .	36
Statistics of the poor of do - - - -	36
Hawkes L. letter received in answer to queries, -	36
Poor of the town of Glocester, - - - -	37
Statistics of the poor of do - - - -	37
Hawkins John, letter received in reply to queries, -	37
Poor of the town of Foster, - - - -	38
Statistics of the poor of Foster, - - - -	38
Howard Gardiner, letter received in answer to queries,	39
Asylum for the poor of the town of Scituate, - -	39
Statistics of do do do - -	40
Lapham Benedict, letter from in answer to queries, -	40
Poor of the town of Johnston, - - - -	42
Statistics of the poor of Johnston, - - - -	43
Reply received to queries from Johnston, - -	43
Asylum of the poor of the town of Cranston, - -	44
Statistics of the poor of Cranston, - - - -	44
Congdon Daniel, letter received in reply to queries, -	44
Asylum for the poor of the town of Warwick, -	46
Statistics of do do do - -	46
Wood John I. letter received from in reply to queries,	46
Asylum for the poor of the town of East-Greenwich,	48
Statistics of do do do do -	48
Tillinghast Joseph I. letter received in answer to queries,	48
Poor of the town of Coventry, - - - -	49
Statistics of the poor of Coventry, - - - -	51
Whipple Thomas, letter from - - - -	52
Tarbox Anthony, letter from in answer to queries, -	52
Poor of the town of West-Greenwich, - - -	53
Statistics of the poor of West-Greenwich, - - -	53

Hoxie Benjamin R. reply received in answer to queries,	53
Poor of the town of North-Kingstown, - - -	54
Statistics of the poor of North-Kingstown, - -	54
Waite B. A. letter received in reply to queries, - -	55
Poor of the town of South-Kingstown, - - -	56
Statistics of the poor of South-Kingstown, - -	56
Potter E. R. reply received in answer to queries, - -	57
Poor of the town of Charlestown, - - -	57
Statistics of the poor of Charlestown, - - -	57
Hoxie Gideon, letter received in reply to queries, -	58
Poor of the town of Westerly, - - - -	58
Statistics of the poor of Westerly, - - - -	59
Cross Geo. D. letter received in answer to queries, -	59
Poor of the town of Hopkinton, - - - -	61
Babcock Elnathan W. letter received in answer to queries,	61
Poor of the town of Richmond, - - - -	62
Tanner Elias, letter received in answer to queries, -	62
Poor of the town of Exeter, - - - -	62
Statistics of the poor of Exeter, - - - -	63
Greene Isaac, letter received from in answer to queries,	63
Table of the cost of maintaining the poor in 15 asylums,	64
Table shewing the cost of maintaining the poor in 16	
towns that have no asylums, - - -	65
Table of insane persons at the charge of the towns, in	
Butler Hospital, - - - -	65
Recapitulation of pauper statistics, - - -	66
Butler Hospital for the Insane, - - -	66
Derivation of funds for establishment of Butler Hospital,	67
Brown Nicholas, the late, bequest from, - -	67
Butler Cyrus, the late, donation from, - -	67
Duncan Alexander, donation from, - - -	67
Ray Dr. superintendent of Butler Hospital, -	67
Statistics of Butler Hospital, - - -	67
Forms blank for admission of patients into the B. Hospital,	68
Laws, rules, &c. of Warwick asylum for the poor, -	69
Bill of fare for Newport asylum, - -	72
Reed William H. keeper of the Newport asylum, -	73
Donations or legacies for the poor, - - -	73
Insane persons in Rhode-Island, - - -	74
Idiotic and imbecile persons in Rhode-Island, - -	76
Blind persons in Rhode-Island, - - -	77

Deaf mutes in the state of Rhode-Island,	-	-	78
State appropriation for the deaf and dumb and the blind,			79
Weld Lewis, letter from superintendent American asylum,			79
Howe S. G. letter from superintendent Perkins Institution,			82
Caswell Oliver, well educated deaf and dumb and blind boy,			81
State appropriation for the relief of the indigent insane,			82
Wade Willard, confined or chained thirty-three years,			83
Dyer Elisha, Jr.	-	-	84
Taylor Otis,	-	-	84
Anthony Gov. dispenser of the fund for the indigent insane,			85
Methods of keeping the public poor,	-	-	85
Keepers of asylums,	-	-	89
Extracts from rules and regulations of Portsmouth asylum,			91
The insane,	-	-	95
Armstrong —, suffering case of insanity,	-	-	97
Gibbs Rebecca, suffering case of insanity,	-		97
Dix Dorothea L.	-	-	100
Jenkins Anne A.	-	-	100
Whitman William, the amiable insane man,	-		101
Albro Caroline, statement of,	-	-	102
Fales William R. the Portsmouth cripple,	-	-	103
Idiotic, deaf and dumb, and blind,	-	-	105
Tendency of insanity and other infirmities to pauperism,			106
Proposed laws and amendments of laws,	-		106
Acts of Assembly relating to pauperism,	-		107
Freebody Andrew, extract from the will of the late,			109
Appendix,	-	-	113
Narragansett Indians,	-	-	113
King Tom, the last Narragansett chief,	-	-	113
Potter's Early History of the Narragansetts,	-		113
Updike's History of the Narragansett Church,	-		113
Smith John, founder of Jamestown,	-	-	114
Powhattan, the Indian chief,	-	-	114
Pocahontas, the Indian princess,	-	-	114
Potter Elisha R. letter from,	-	-	114
Potter Elisha R. report of committee on Indian affairs,			115
Act of distribution,	-	-	119

# REPORT.

---

*To the General Assembly of the State of Rhode-Island  
and Providence Plantations.*

THE undersigned respectfully asks leave to report, that since his appointment by the Governor, under a resolution of the legislature, to enquire into the condition of the public poor and the insane, in the State of Rhode-Island; he has visited all the towns, with the exception of New Shoreham, and has personally inspected the Asylums for the poor; recording the names of all the inmates, together with such other items as he thought might be useful, either for present purposes or for future reference. He has also addressed copies of the following circular to the highest authorities of each town; and as the replies received in answer to the queries throw much light on the subject of inquiry, he has thought it best to incorporate them substantially in this report, under the heads of the several towns to which they apply. (The following is a copy of the circular.)

To the President of the Town Council, of the town of —

1st Query. Has your town an Asylum for its pauper poor; if so, how much land is attached thereto—what is the value of said land—and what is the cost or value of the whole establishment, including buildings.

2nd. What is the money value of its annual products.

3rd. What salary is paid for the superintendence of the Asylum.

4th. What amount is usually appropriated by the town, for the maintenance of the poor, in addition to the products of the Asylum.

5th. If your town does not own an Asylum, what method is pursued in contracting for the maintenance of your poor.

6th. What security for their good treatment does the town require of those who keep their paupers.

7th. What supervision is exercised by the town over the keepers of the poor.

8th. What is the annual sum paid by the town for the support of its poor.

9th. What is the average number of paupers in summer, also the number in winter, as near as may be.

10th. Has any fund or legacy been given for the benefit of the poor in your town—if so, what is its amount and who are made its trustees by the giver.

11th. What provision is made by the town for the education of its pauper children.

12th. What provision is made by the town for medical attendance of the poor.

13th. Are the public poor furnished with Bibles; and what opportunities or facilities are provided to enable them to unite with their wealthier brethren in worshipping their Creator agreeably to the usages of the different sects of Christians.

### NEWPORT.

On the 5th of last seventh month, I visited the Newport Asylum and noted the following statistics. This Asylum is pleasantly situated on an Island containing about 80 acres. The building is large and substantial—is well arranged and furnished, and its affairs appear to be well conducted.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time at Asylum.		Where Born.	Married* or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			Y.	W.			
	C S	65	30		Newport	s	Infirm and blind.
	L A	36	1		"	M	Disagreement with husband.
	P G	80	37		"	M	Intemperance, (colored)
	M D	17		2	Ireland	s	Ill treatment of intem. parents
	M B	35			England	M	Disagreement with husband.
	E R	17	12		Newport	s	Imbecility of mind.
	J N	60			Ireland	M	Intemperance.
	H M	61		1	Newport	M	"
	M R	38		25	Scotland	M	Intemperate husband,
	H P	45	6		Newport	M	" "
	E N	88	30		"	s	Insane for 30 years.

\*Have been or are now married.

	S	F	34	16	Newport	S	Insane, (cause) high temper and immorality.
	C	H	51	20	"	M	Insane—intem. and immor.
	N	M	74	20	"		" impurity, (colored)
	C	C	37	15	"	S	" hereditary ; ins. 15 y's
	J	G	70	19	"	S	" disappointed affection.
	B	T	82	17	"	S	" from youth.
	M	T	65	2	"	M	Loss of industrious husband.
	E	M	37		12 England	M	Intemperance.
	B	M	17	12	Ireland	S	Ins. (cause) Hereditary.
	A	F	36	7	Newport	M	" " immorality ; ins. 9 y.
	R	G	58	29	"	S	" " disap. affec. 29 y ins.
	M	D	33	7	Nova Scotia		" " intemperance.
	N	F	83	40	Newport		" " unknown (colored)
M	K		32	3	Germany	S	" " "
T	D		71	1	Ireland	M	" " intemperance.
A	V		54	3	Mass.	M	" " "
J	T		56	21	Newport		" " unknown.
E	T		52	18	"	S	" " being left exposed at sea ; 21 years insane.
G	N		27	10	Canada	S	Ins. (cause) fall from horse.
H	P		46	17	Newport	S	" " infidel associates ; 17 years insane.
R	S		80	14	Newport	M	Ins. (cause) unknown.
B	W		66	10	Warren	M	" " hered. & use opium.
C	M		60	18	"	S	" " 25 years insane.
R	M		74	16	S. Kingst'n	M	" " intemperance.
J	J		67	30	France	S	" " defrauded of property
J	S		52	29	Newport	S	" " intem. ; ins. 34 y's.
W	M		42	2	"	M	" " " (colored)
J	H		75	9	"	M	Intemperance.
E	N		80	10	England	M	"
W	B		59		8 Newport	M	"
P	E		93	29	Denmark		"
A	H		70	4	Mass.	M	"
G	T		72	13	Newport	M	" (colored)
I	C		61		"	M	"
A	P		74	21	"	M	"
J	M		72	18	"	M	"
J	A		63		1 "	S	"
D	B		49		4 England	S	"
B	H		70	4	Mass.	S	Old age and destitution.
C	S		56	8	Newport	S	Imbecility of mind.
S	R		43	3	"	M	Intemperance.
J	L		45	7	"	S	Imbecility, caused by improper medical treatment.
J	O		69	21	England	M	Intemperate children.

Total 30 males.  
 24 females.  
 16 children under 12 years of age.

---

70 whole number at Asylum.

*Replies to Queries.*

1st. The town of Newport owns about 80 acres of land, worth about \$7000, connected with an Asylum for their poor; the whole, including buildings, is worth about \$15.000.

2d. The average annual value of the products of the Asylum, is about \$1000.

3d. The salary paid the superintendent is \$325 per annum, and provisions for his family.

4th. In addition to the products of the Asylum, the town appropriates from \$2500 to \$3000 annually for the maintenance of their poor.

6th. The establishment is under the immediate care of a Visiting Committee, chosen from the Board of Commissioners, who visit it once a week—a set of rules are also provided for its regulation.

7th. The supervision of the establishment is delegated by the town to nine Commissioners, three of whom are chosen annually.

9th. The average number of paupers is about 70 in summer, and about 90 in winter.

10th. The Overseer of the Poor distributes the rent of a lot of land containing about 7 acres, left by Mr. Freebody; and also the interest of \$500 of the "Derby fund," to such poor persons as he may think proper—and the Commissioners of the Asylum distribute in the same way the dividends of one share in the New England Commercial Bank, left by the late Sarah Redwood.

11th. A school is kept in the establishment, at present, by Mr. Moulton.

12th. A Physician is annually appointed by the town, who visits the Asylum once a week, and oftener if needed.

13th. A Sunday School Library has been given to the Asylum by a Sabbath School in Newport. Religious services by ministers and laymen of different denominations are performed in the Chapel of the establishment, every Sabbath morning.

## PORTSMOUTH.

The Asylum of this town is pleasantly, but inconveniently situated, being quite a distance from any open road. The arrangements seem well calculated to promote the comfort of the poor, and, to a stranger, it appears to be well conducted. The following table shews its inmates on the 30th of last ninth month, at which time I visited it.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time in Asylum.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			Y	W's			
J B		81	3		Portsmouth	M	Blind for 40 years.
J A		80	7		"	M	Old age.
	M S	60	20			M	Insane, is now chained and has been for many years.
	M S	70	25		Portsmouth	M	Insane.
B I		47	4		"	M	"
	E E	80	9		"	S	
	C A	64			"	S	Rheumatism.
	E I	30	30		"	S	Idiotic.
	A I	45	4		Newport	M	Imbecile in mind and dim sighted.
	H S	15		1	"	S	
J A		58	3		Portsmouth	S	Imbecility of mind.
B B		49	10		"	S	" "
G B		51	1		"	M	
	M T	40	40		"	S	Idiotic.

6 males.

8 females.

1 boy 7 years of age.

15 Total.

*Replies to Queries.*

1st. There are about sixty acres of land, worth \$4,000, connected with the Portsmouth Asylum for the poor: the whole establishment, including buildings, is worth about \$5,000.

2d. Do not know the money value of its products.

3d. The keeper's salary is \$200 per annum.

4th. For the year 1849, the expense of the poor was about \$30, in addition to the products of the farm.

6th. The Asylum is conducted under the direction of three Commissioners, who give no security for their behavior.

7th. The supervision of the Asylum is delegated by the town to the Commissioners.

8th. Do not know what is the annual sum paid by the town for the support of their poor.

9th. Fifteen has been the average number of paupers for the last two or three years, summer and winter.

10th. No fund or legacy has been given to the poor in Portsmouth.

11th. The pauper children go to the district school, under the direction of the Commissioners.

12th. Dr. Keith is hired by the Town Council to attend on the poor for \$12 per year.

13th. No Bibles have been furnished the poor by the town. I understand that Bibles have been given to such of the poor as know how to use them, by individuals. Public religious meetings are held at the Asylum occasionally.

---

#### MIDDLETOWN.

The Asylum of this town is well situated on the main road. At the date of my visit, the 5th of 11th month last, there were but two children in it that were supported by the town, both of whom were under seven years of age. I. P., 78 years of age, a male pauper, was at that time boarded by the town of Middletown at the Newport Asylum; he has been on the town about forty years. He has been married, and is a native of Middletown, as are also the two children above mentioned. The following is a copy of a letter received in reply to queries :—

MIDDLETOWN, Dec. 24th, 1850.

This town has a small house and one acre of ground which is occupied and improved by a family, who contract to board such of the poor as the overseers may think proper. A part of the poor of our town receive pensions and live with their friends or relatives. The Town Council are the Overseers of the Poor.

The town receives an annuity of \$10, given by the late Andrew Freebody, for the relief of the poor. The Overseers are the trustees of the same.

Three paupers are supported wholly, and five partly, by the town.

The person who occupies the house enters into a written obligation for the faithful performance of his contract and good treatment of the poor.

The Overseers, as often as once a month, visit the paupers and inspect into their fare and treatment.

The pauper children are sent to the district school with other children, belonging to the district.

Physicians attend and provide for the sick paupers—such of the paupers as are disposed to, attend public worship in the meeting house in the neighborhood. The paupers have Bibles.

About \$400 was paid for the support of the poor the past year. All of which is respectfully submitted by order and in behalf of the Town Council.

JOSHUA COGGESHALL, *Council Clerk.*

TO T. R. HAZARD.

### LITTLE COMPTON.

The Asylum of this town is pleasantly situated, (though perhaps too far from the main road) and well arranged for the comfort of the poor, and things have a respectable and comfortable appearance in the house. The date of my visit was 10th of twelfth month last; when I took the following notes.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time in Asylum.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			Y's	W's			
S G		79	12		Newport	M	Intemperance.
A B		67	2		L. Compton	M	Loss of property.
	S W	47	7		"	S	Ill health.
	M D	80	11		"	S	Old age and poverty.
W S		63	20		Mass.	S	Imbecility of mind.
	R B	47	10		L. Compton	S	Immorality.
	P C	66	12		"	M	Ill health.
	A H	42	29		Newport	S	Immorality.
I C		35	6		L. Compton	S	Imbecility of mind.
W B		44	1		"	S	Intemperance.
T W		45	1		Newport	S	" "
T E		57	4		Charlesto'n	S	Imbecility of mind.

7 males,  
5 females,  
1 boy, 10 years old.

---

13 total.

LITTLE COMPTON, OCT. 1, 1850.

I received yours yesterday and hasten to answer it by the request of the President of the Town Council.

1st. The town of Little Compton own an Asylum to which is attached 65 acres of land worth \$3000. The whole establishment including buildings, is worth \$4000.

2d. The annual value of its products is \$550.

3d. The keeper's salary is \$200.

4th. The town appropriates annually \$500, in addition to the products of the Asylum, for its maintenance.

9th. Our population is almost wholly native, and the number of our paupers is consequently about the same in winter as in summer—average, 14.

10th. No fund or legacy has been given for the benefit of our poor.

11th. We seldom have pauper children—but when we do, they have the privilege of the district school, the same as other children.

12th. They have the usual Physician at the Asylum when sick as others.

13th. Those who are able usually attend some place of worship on the Sabbath—and a religious meeting attended by a clergyman has been held at the Asylum weekly or semi-weekly for a long time. Yours respectfully,

OTIS WILBOR, *Council Clerk.*

To T. R. HAZARD.

---

## NEW SHOREHAM.

It not being convenient to visit this Island town, I addressed a letter of inquiry to one of its residents, in whom I felt much confidence, and received from him the following reply.

NEW SHOREHAM, SEPT. 23d, 1850.

Yours of the 9th inst., duly came to hand, requesting me to give you a statement of the poor of our town—and how

they are provided for. We have at present two male paupers, the one aged 83, the other 59 years—also four female paupers whose several ages are 92, 46, 42 and 41 years. They are let at auction to be well clothed and provided for, under the direction of a Committee, who visit them once a month to ascertain their treatment. The compensation we pay this year for keeping our poor is \$198, and we pay our physician \$25 per year to attend them. The health of our paupers is as good as is usual for people of their age. A part of them have been chargeable to the town for about twenty years. One of them for two years only. They are all white persons. They are all sane, with the exception of the aged female, who is now childish. They have always been single.

Yours with great respect,

GEORGE G. SHEFFIELD.

TO T. R. HAZARD.

The following reply has been received to queries :—

1st. The town of New Shoreham has no Asylum for their poor.

5th. Our poor are boarded out.

6th. The pay for boarding our poor is forfeited, in case that they are not properly treated.

7th. The poor are under the superintendence of a Committee.

8th. The annual sum paid by the town for the support of their poor, is \$169 25 cents.

9th. Five is the average number of our paupers.

10th. No fund or legacy has been given for the benefit of the poor in our town.

11th. Our pauper children can attend the public schools.

12th. A physician is employed by the town to attend on the poor.

13th. Our paupers have the privilege of attending meetings with the other inhabitants of the Island.

---

#### JAMESTOWN.

I visited this town on the 29th of 7th month last, and understood that by a vote of the town its poor had been placed at board with the keeper of the poor in South Kingstown,

to which place, three of them had been removed, whilst three others remained on the island with friends or connexions. These three were all insane females ; one of them, H. A., resided with her parents, who received from the town one dollar per week for her board. She is 38 years of age and has been insane about twenty-three years. One other, H. A., about 50 years of age, has been insane eight years, and then lived with the former keeper of the poor, who received no compensation other than her services for her maintenance. One other woman, of about 75 years of age, who had been insane about thirty years, lives with a married daughter, who is paid nothing by the town for her support, but is allowed by relations ninety-six cents per week for boarding her mother. On the next day, I visited the poor in South Kingstown, where I saw two of the three that had been placed at board with the keeper, by the town of Jamestown. One had died since her removal. The two remaining, were P. W., a female of 70 years of age, very insane, and a colored woman, F. H., of 50 years of age, who has also since died. The following letter was received in answer to queries :—

JAMESTOWN, Oct. 10th, 1850.

Your communication of the 27th of September, containing certain inquiries in relation to the public poor of the town of Jamestown, should have been sooner answered had it been practicable for me to have done so, but other engagements have prevented. I will now proceed to answer them.

1st. The town of Jamestown has no Asylum for the poor.

5th. The method practised for the last four years, has been for the overseers to advertise for proposals for keeping the poor from year to year.

6th. It has not been the practice of our town to take any security other than a written agreement for the keeping of the poor.

7th. The town exercises no supervision over their poor, other than through the overseers, who visit at their discretion.

8th. For the last three years, the annual sum appropriated by the town for the support of its poor, has been about \$350 ;

for the last fiscal year, ending April 1st, 1850, it was however, about \$408.

9th. The average number of our paupers last year was six—four of whom were insane—for the previous three years, it had been five ; no variation in winter or summer.

10th. A legacy was given to the poor of this town by the late Andrew Freebody, in trust with the overseers of the poor.

11th. There has been no children supported by the town of Jamestown for the last ten years.

12th. Our town makes no provision for medical attendance of the poor, it is left with the overseers.

13th. No Bibles are furnished by the town for the poor, and no facilities are provided to enable them to worship God, other than what are provided by their keeper.

Your friend,

GEO. C. CARR.

To T. R. HAZARD.

### TIVERTON.

The Asylum of this town is roomy and well situated on the public road. The inmates appeared pretty comfortable, though some complaints were made. The following were a list of its pauper inmates on the 10th of last month, the date of my visit.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time in Asylum.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			r's	w's			
	J M	32		12	Tiverton	M	Intemperate husband. (4 children with her.)
P L		65	6		"	M	Intemperance.
S G		50	1		"	S	Ill health.
	B L	75	4		"	M	Intemperance. (colored)
	S T	72	20		"	S	Paralytic.
J E		30	30		"	S	Imbecility of mind.
W F		55	3		"	M	Intemperance.
	E H	18		16	"	S	Immorality.

4 males.

4 females.

6 children under 12 years of age.

14 total.

The following letter was received in answer to queries :

FALL RIVER, Dec. 12, 1850.

Herewith, I forward to you answers to your several interrogatories. The delay in furnishing them, has been occasioned partly by my absence from home and partly by the difficulties attending the arrival at the facts inquired about.

Yours very respectfully,

W. P. SHEFFIELD.

To T. R. HAZARD.

To your first question, I answer—The town of Tiverton has a farm and buildings sufficiently capacious to accommodate their poor. The farm contains one hundred and thirty acres. It is worth six thousand dollars.

2d.—It is difficult to fix the exact income, as it must necessarily vary with the price of the products. It produces two hundred bushels of corn, two hundred bushels of oats, two hundred bushels of potatoes, with other culinary vegetables sufficient for the consumption of the family, (say) in all, not including stock or hay, \$500.

3d.—The salary of the keeper is \$200 and board of his family.

6th and 7th.—Two persons are annully chosen by the town to oversee and superintend the establishment, with full authority to direct in the management of the farm and to control the keeper in all things incident to his duties.

8th.—In addition to the products of the farm and the salary of the keeper, the town pays such orders as are drawn in favor of the keeper for the contingent expenses of the Asylum by the town council, who are the overseers of the poor, and such orders as are drawn in favor of persons who are able to obtain a partial support for themselves. Those orders during the last year, amounted to \$286 41-100.

9th.—The average number of our paupers is, fifteen in summer, eighteen in winter.

10th.—No fund or legacy has been given to the poor of our town.

11th.—Our pauper children have access to the district school, the same as other children in the district.

12th.—The town employs a physician at a fixed salary to attend on the poor.

13th.—I think that the poor are not furnished with Bibles. There is a Congregational Church in the neighborhood, and the poor can attend whenever they choose to do so.

### BRISTOL.

The Asylum of this town is conveniently situated on the road ; is substantially built, and well arranged, and appears to be well conducted. On the 2nd day, 9th month last, the date of my visit, it contained the following pauper inmates.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time at Asylum.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			r's	w's			
J D		66	1		Bristol	M	Intemperance.
A E		75	5		"	M	"
D C		54	29		Portsmouth	S	Insane, caused by a fall when young.
J W		70	15		Bristol	S	Insane. (partially.)
S O		50	12		"	S	"
G W		84	9		"	M	Intemperance.
	P S	66	15		"	S	Improvvidence.
	S B	65	10		"	S	Distress of mind & lameness.
	M C	50	1		"	S	Insane.
	B T	85	2		"	M	Old Age.
	P H	23	2		"	S	Immorality. (colored)

6 males.

5 females.

4 children under 12 years of age.

15 total.

The following letter has been received in reply to queries.

BRISTOL, OCT. 16th, 1850.

In reply to your circular of the 27th ult., I submit the following answer, viz :—

That Bristol has provided an Asylum for her paupers, say 30 acres of land, purchased by the town about thirty years since, for \$2500, and have erected a spacious dwelling house and other fixtures proper for a farm and the accommodation

of the inmates, at an expense of \$3500. This estate would now bring probably, \$5000. As to its annual products, as they are mostly consumed by the inmates and the Overseer's family, it is impossible to estimate them with precision ; perhaps they might average, one year with another, \$700. The superintendent receives a salary of \$200 besides the board of himself and family.

There has been an appropriation by the town of \$500 yearly, (or about that sum,) for the support of the Asylum and for repairs on the buildings, exclusive of the above expenses. We pay out, also, to pensioners, who are partially supported by the town, but reside among their connexions, who assist these pensioners themselves in their support, about \$400 per annum. These two appropriations are respectively \$500 and \$400 ; but sometimes these amounts will be exceeded, and at other times the appropriations will not be wholly absorbed by the expenditure. The average however, will not vary much from the sums named.

The supervision of paupers at the Asylum is committed to a board of Commissioners, one of whom visits the Asylum at least once a week.

Usually we have from 12 to 15 paupers in the establishment and about an equal number of pensioners out of it. In winter our pensioners are increased by the allowance of bread and fuel only.

No legacy has ever been given for the support or the assistance of our paupers. There is a school house at which a good school is kept the year round, located on the Asylum farm, where our pauper children have the same opportunity to acquire a useful education as other children in the vicinity. A physician has always been engaged to attend on the sick at the Asylum, whenever the superintendent deemed it necessary. There is no want of Bibles or tracts, or other religious books, at the Asylum ; all are supplied who will read. The inmates have full liberty to attend public worship in the village on Sundays, when and wherever they choose ; and besides, there is preaching occasionally at the Asylum for the benefit of invalids. Respectfully yours, &c.,

N. BULLOCK.

TO T. R. HAZARD.

## WARREN.

The Asylum of this town is comfortable in appearance, and well arranged—it is, however, illy situated for public inspection, being far from the road. On the 2d of 9th month last, the date of my visit, it contained the following pauper inmates.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time at Asylum.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			Y's	W's			
W J	M C	84	4		Providence	M	Ill health & loss of husband.
		93	12		N. York.	M	Old age. (colored.)
	A B	50			Warren	S	Imbecility of mind.
	E M	45	10		Mass.	M	Insane. (was then chained and had been most of the time for 4 years or more.)
	B C	45	10		Warren	M	Insane. (was then chained and had been most of the time for 4 years or more.)
	W B	33	6		"	S	Insane. (chained at times)
	R B	74	20		"	M	" (for 30 years.)
		76	5		"	S	Imbecility of mind.
R C		70	11		"	M	Insane.
E C		53	9		"	S	Cripple.
H B		36	10		"	S	
J M		74	16		"	M	Ill health.
	L U	13			"	S	Orphan.
	P L	79			"	M	Ill health.
	S S						

5 males.

9 females.

—  
14 total.

The following reply was received to queries.

1st. This town has an Asylum. The buildings are worth \$4000. 70 acres of land, \$4000.

2d. Its annual products are worth, (say) \$1000.

3d. The keeper's salary is \$200.

4th. There is drawn for the support of the poor annually, \$350 from the town treasury.

9th. Average number of our paupers is 14 in summer and 17 in winter.

10th. A fund of \$5500, called the Campbell fund, is held in trust, by John T. Child, George W. Case, and Seth Peck, for indigent children.

12th. Overseers of the poor, are chosen annually according to law, who are also by vote of the town, made "*ex-officio*" Commissioners of the Asylum, whose duty is to supervise all matters relating to the Asylum and support of the poor.

Since the reading of this report to the General Assembly, the following letter and explanation of the objects and origin of the Cambell Fund, has been handed to me for insertion.

WARREN, JAN, 28th, 1851.

Enclosed you will find a short history of the life and character of Nicholas Cambell, together with the origin of the fund, (called the Cambell fund) from which you can extract such portions as you may deem proper to be published in your report. Respectfully yours, &c.,

HAILE COLLINS.

TO T. R. HAZARD.

Nicholas Cambell came to this country from Malta, before the Revolutionary war, and died in this town. The following is an extract from his will: "Lastly, my will is that the residue of my estate, of whatsoever nature and description, after paying the aforesaid legacies, shall be by executors placed in some public funds, the interest whereof to be appropriated to the schooling of indigent children, both male and female, of the town of Warren, and for other charitable purposes.

My will furthermore is, that the interest of the aforesaid fund be managed and applied by my executors, and at the decease of either of them, it is my design that another be chosen by the survivors, and in like manner, should any decline the management of this fund, those whosoever, may choose others to keep the number good, and continue in this way forever.

And I hereby appoint Wm. Carr, Allen Sloan, and Seth Peck, executors to this my last will and testament."

*Signed*, NICHOLAS + CAMBELL.

*Dated*, November 1, 1821.

*Proved*, September 7, 1829.

Amount of fund,—one hundred shares, stock in Warren Bank, valued at \$5500.

Fifty children are kept constantly at school, and of a class who are too young to attend the town public schools. These are furnished with books, which we are authorized to furnish under that clause of the will, "other charitable purposes."

*Signed*, JOHN T. CHILD.

Warren, Jan. 27, 1851.

### BARRINGTON.

Visited this town, but could hear of no poor or poor house in it. I find, however, by the reply that I have received to the circular, that the treasury of Barrington is taxed annually, to the extent of \$50, for the support of one pauper, only.

### PROVIDENCE.

Visited the Dexter Asylum, in this city, 9th month 3d. It is a fine and substantial building, and is apparently well arranged and conducted. The following list of its inmates, was kindly furnished me by its superintendent, (Mr. Chapin,) a day or two after my visit to the institution.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time at Asylum.				Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			Y	S	M	D			
	M D	20			1	22	Ireland	S	Immorality.
	H F	52	1		4	21		S	Partially insane.
	E G	20	1	10	17		Ireland	S	Intemperate.
	C S	56	3	2	8		"	M	Blind.
	E S	25			6	11	"	S	
	R W	50	13			3		S	Insane for many years.
	M S	37	7	7	27		Ireland	S	Intemperate.
	S S	68	7	3	25			S	Lame and sickly.
	J F	38	11	10	1			S	Palsy and friendless.
	M M	17			5	10	Ireland	S	Intemperate.
	C T	36	2	4	11		"	M	"
	P B	55	20					S	Feeble and friendless.
	M W	26			2	1	Ireland	S	Immoral.
	M M	*			5	16	"		Mother in Asylum.

\*Infants.

S G	15		1 12	Ireland	S	Unprincipled.
H A	63	4 10	3		S	Partially insane. (feeble)
M B	42	1	22	Ireland	M	Blind.
M R	23		6 4	"	S	Partially insane. (sickly)
A C	35		2 27	"	M	Intemperate.
I D	28		2 7	"	M	"
S K	23		12	"	S	Infant with her.
M K	*		12	"		Mother in the Asylum.
M S	34		16	"	M	Deserted by husband, child with her.
A S	3		16	"	S	Deserted by father.
L B	18		9		S	Sickness and immorality.
R G	26		5	Ireland	M	Friendless, infant with her.
R G	*		5	"		Mother in asylum.
B C	30		5	"	M	Intemperate, infant with her.
T C	*		5	"		Deserted by father.
R L	22	3 4	15		S	Bad character.
J H	8	2 5	27	Ireland		Desert. by parents. (at school)
E E	4	1 11	28	"		" " "
C S	7		11 22	"		Intemperate parents. "
S B	6	1 7	17	"		" " "
S C	6	5 6	8			Mother in asylum. "
A C	4		2 27			Intemperate mother. "
M D	6		2 7			" " "
L T	60	19 5			S	Old age and lame.
P S	70	11 7	5		M	Sickly and bad husband.
B W	52	1 10	4		M	Deserted by husband.
A G	30	7	1	Ireland	S	Partially insane.
H C	28	5 6	8		S	Immor. 2 children with her.
E C	*		7 21			Mother in asylum.
G B	2	1 4	21			Deserted by parents.
C L	3	2 9	4			Bad mother.
M G	52	6 7	4		S	Intemperate and lame.
M C	20		7 24	Ireland	M	Deserted by husband.
M C	*			"		Mother in asylum.
M P	20		3 21		S	Partially ins. infant with her.
A P	*					Mother in asylum.
V J	80	4 7	6		S	Old age and lame.
M S	9		16	Ireland		Deserted by father.
U F	52	16 9	16		S	Partially insane and lame.
M C	36		1 13	Ireland	M	Intemperate.
H H	20		1 10		M	Deserted by husband.
J M	30		2 12		S	Intemperate.
A H	32	1 7	23	Ireland	M	"
M R	93	1 3	18		M	Old age and friendless.
M L	74	1 9	4		M	Partially insane and sickly,
J E	25	1 11	28		M	Bad husband and sickly.



F E	22	3	2	4	Portugal	s	Insane.
M P	56		11	20		s	Intemperate.
G M	55	1		11	Ireland	M	"
G M	48	2	2	10	"	M	"
E C	38			13	"	S	"
D F	49	2	10	11		s	Clubfoot and intemperate.
H W	38			7		s	Intemperate.
J C	46			5		s	"
W T	10	3	6	24	Ireland		Intemperate parents,(at sch'l)
V K	9		11	2	"		Mother in asylum, "
M D	8		10	11	"		" " "
W O	9		11				Orphan, "
G T	7	1	2				Intemperate parents, "
D T	6	1	2				" " "
A D	7		8	4	Ireland		Orphan, "
M P	5	2	5	29	"		Intemperate parents, "
J H	4	1	7	23	"		Intemperate mother, "
P P	5		11		"		Orphan, "
J L	12		5		England		Orphan and lame, "
T E	4	1	11	20			Mother in Asylum, "
J T	7		1	15	Ireland		Intemperate parents, "
P C	7		2	27	"		Mother in Asylum, "
T C	9		2	27	"		" " "
W G	8	3		3	"		Intemperate parents, "
P F	12			20			Dishonest, "
J S	6			16	Ireland		Deserted by Father, "
M C	5			14	"		" by Parents, "
W T	3			9	"		" " "
D S	2			16			" by Father, "

51 women.

41 men.

28 boys.

16 girls.

136 total in Dexter Asylum.

Children attending school, 28.

The following letter was received in reply to queries.

CITY OF PROVIDENCE, }  
*Mayor's Office, Dec. 11, 1850.* }

I reply to the interrogatories proposed by you, as follows;  
 viz:—

1st. The city owns the Dexter Asylum, with farm of about 40 acres. The farm was given on condition that it should be retained for the use of the poor. Its actual value

is therefore, only that of 40 acres of good farming land with buildings.

2d. This question cannot be answered accurately, because the farming is not carried on so much for profit, as to add to the comfort of the inmates of the Asylum. That part of the produce which is wanted for their use, is so used; and about as much is derived from sales, as is required to pay for the hired labor, manure, &c., used on the farm.

3d. The superintendent of the Asylum is paid by the city, \$600 and the board of himself and family.

4th. See answer to 8th. 5th and 6th, no answer required.

7th. A member of the Board of Commissioners visits the Asylum every week. The Mayor occasionally visits the Butler Hospital.

8th. The city pays for support of Insane poor, at Butler Hospital, \$4.693 59

For support of poor at Dexter Asylum,

from Dexter Donation, \$4.394 15

From city treasury, 2.452 26

————— 6.846 41

For out-door relief, from Tillinghast

Donation, 0.014 00

From city treasury, 7.726 51

————— 7.740 51

For expense of poor persons sick at city Hospital, 1.226 72

————— \$20.507 23

The last year as made up by accounts. The present year, I hope it may be 1500 or \$2000 less, as there has been much less sickness.

9th. About 180 in summer and 230 in winter, are wholly supported at the Asylum. The out-door relief, is given under varied circumstances, to a large number of people; but not exceeding one fourth part the expense of support in any case.

10th. The Dexter Donation which yielded last year an income of \$4.394 15

The Tillinghast Donation, 14 00

————— \$4.408 15

The Dexter Donation property, was bequeathed to the town of Providence, by Ebenezer Knight Dexter; and the

Tillinghast Donation was also bequeathed to said town by Lydia Tillinghast; both especially devised for the use and relief of the poor.

11th. Instruction is daily given in a school at the Asylum.

12th. Physicians attend the inmates of the Asylum and Hospital occasionally; out-door medical attendance is paid for, but most of the poor are attended by the physicians employed by the Dispensary, or by those who are prompted by their own benevolence. The liberal conduct of the physicians of this city towards the poor is worthy of much praise.

13th. The Asylum is well furnished with Bibles at the city's expense. Public worship by an ordained clergyman, is held on Sundays. I remain respectfully yours,

THOS. M. BURGESS, *Mayor*.

To T. H. HAZARD, *Com'r*.

#### NORTH PROVIDENCE.

The Asylum for the poor of this town, is comfortable in appearance, but not very conveniently situated for the inspection of the public. The following is a list of its inmates on the 3d of 9th month last, the date of my visit to that institution.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time in Asylum.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			Y's	W's			
	M B	45	4		N. Providence	S	Intemperance.
	A H	50	6		"	S	Insane.
L F		90			4 Cumberland	M	Old age.
	R F	70			4 Gloucester	M	
C B		60	12		N. Providence	M	Intemperance.
W J		60	12		"	S	"
R S		50	2		"	S	"
S A		40	12		"	S	"
S J		45	2		"	M	"
	M J	37	2		England	M	"

6 males.

4 females.

5 children under 12 years of age.

15 total.

The following letter was received in reply to queries.

NORTH PROVIDENCE, Nov. 22d, 1850.

Upon my return home last evening from a journey, I found your two letters upon my table, and I hasten to reply.

1st. We have a farm with suitable buildings, and all in good repair, containing 64 acres. Original cost, \$3600, and now valued at \$5200.

2d. There was sold for the year ending April 1st, 1850, of the products of the farm, \$545 67 over and above what was consumed by the poor.

3d. The salary of our superintendent is \$300 per year.

4th. The town makes no regular appropriation for the support of the poor. The cost for the year ending April 1st, 1850, was about \$1200, and this amount was exclusive of the keeper's salary. Situated so near Providence, we have a great many transient paupers, (mostly foreigners,) and I think from what little experience I have had, that nearly *one half of our pauper expenses arises from that class.*

7th. Our town at its annual meeting in June, appoint a Board of Commissioners, consisting of three; one of whom is overseer of the poor.

9th. The average is not far from 25 regular paupers, the year round.

11th. The children from the Asylum attend the district school.

12th. A physician is annually appointed to attend upon the sick, and is paid by the town.

13. Bibles are furnished for the poor, and those who conduct themselves properly are allowed to attend religious meetings.

I have above answered your questions, as far as I can from the documents in my possession. If there is any other information you wish, I shall be happy to communicate it, if in my power. I regret that I was not at home when your letters arrived, and trust that the foregoing information will be received by you in time for your report. Yours, &c.,

D. WILKINSON,

TO T. R. HAZARD.

## SMITHFIELD.

The Asylum for the poor of this town is situated on a well improved and productive farm, and appears to be well arranged and conducted. The following is a list of its pauper inmates 9th mo. 3d, 1850, that being the date of my visit.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time in Asylum.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			y's	w's			
T B	R B	70	2		Smithfield	M	Deserted by husband.
	A T	27	6		"	M	Intemperate husband; five children with her.
		37	20		"	M	Blind.
	E B	37	20		"	M	Three children with her.
	F S	43	16		"	S	Imbecile in mind.
	S W	87	9		"	S	Old age.
	M A	88	16		"	S	"
	C H	35			3 Ireland	M	Sickness.
	T P	40	4		Smithfield	M	Insane—husband intemperate—one child with her.
	P S	56	3		"	S	Ill health.
S A	B B	60	16		"	M	Intemperate husband.
	A C	70	2		Ireland	M	Old age.
		88	16		Smithfield	S	Ill health.
	H S	80	10		"	M	Intemperance.
	D B	50	3		"	S	"
	E P	68	4		"	M	"
	J M	70	6		"	M	Old age.

6 males.

11 females.

11 children under 12 years of age.

—  
28 Total.

The following is the reply received to queries :—

SMITHFIELD, 11th mo. 21, 1850.

*Respected Friend—Thomas R. Hazard,*

I herewith send thee such answers to the queries contained in thy circular, as I am at present able to give : should I hereafter discover any *important* error, I will send thee a correction.

Respectfully thy friend,

THOS. BUFFUM.

Answer to query 1st.—We have a town Asylum for our pauper poor, with about one hundred and fifty acres of land attached thereto ; the whole establishment, I believe, has cost about \$8,500.

2d.—I should think that the value of its products was about six hundred dollars. There is not, to my knowledge, any account kept of the value of the different articles produced on the farm.

3d.—I believe that the superintendent of the Asylum is paid four hundred dollars a year and himself and family boarded.

4th.—There is no specific appropriation made for the support of the poor : a committee appointed by the town council, whose duty it is occasionally to visit the Asylum, draw on the town treasurer for such sums as they may think necessary for the proper and comfortable accommodation of all the inmates of the Asylum.

6th.—The town requires no security for the good treatment of their paupers, of the keeper.

7th.—The Overseer of the Poor, with a committee, occasionally visit the Asylum to see that the paupers there are properly taken care of.

8th.—The annual cost of supporting the poor at the Asylum, with the amount paid by the Overseer of the Poor to assist families who are not at the Asylum, with the salary of the superintendent, the interest on the cost of the Asylum, with two hundred dollars a year that we are now paying to the *Butler Hospital*, for the support of two insane paupers, I should think must be something more than two thousand dollars.

9th. The average number of paupers through the year, is believed to be from twenty to twenty-five.

10th.—No fund or legacy has been given for the benefit of the poor in our town.

11th.—No provision is made for the education of pauper children other than to attend the district schools.

12th.—The superintendent of the Asylum, I believe, is authorized to call a physician whenever he may deem it necessary, at the expense of the town, to visit any of the in-

mates, and the Overseer of the Poor calls a physician to attend those who are not at the Asylum, whenever he may think that they require medical aid.

13th.—No particular provision is made by the town for supplying the poor with Bibles, or any facilities for attending public religious worship.

### CUMBERLAND.

The Asylum for the poor of this town is well and pleasantly situated on the road, and appears to be well arranged and conducted. The following were a list of its pauper inmates 4th of 9th month, the date of my visit.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time at Asylum.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			Y's	W's			
W B		17	10		Cumberland	s	Intemperate parents.
F B		25	25		"	s	Imbecility of mind.
W B		65	7		"	M	Intemperate.
J S		65	4		Glocester	M	Insane for 25 years.
	P F	48	9		Cumberland	s	Imbecility of mind.
	S A	40			Conn.		Idiotic. (colored)
L B		34	12		Cumberland	s	"
D D		82	3		"	M	Intemperance.
P C		37			N. H.	M	"
C W		65	1		Ireland	M	Ill health.
	P N	40	20		Cumberland	s	Idiotic.
G D		74	19		"	s	"
	M C	87	8		"	s	
B B		48	15		"	s	Intemperate parents.
S M		53	32		"	s	Intemperance.
H S		68	68		"	s	Intemperate parents.

12 males.

4 females.

4 children under 12 years of age.

20 Total.

The following letter was received, in answer to queries.

CUMBERLAND HILL, Nov. 5th, 1850.

Agreeably to your request, I will endeavor to give you, as far as is in my power, the information you desire.

1st. Our town has an Asylum for its pauper poor, with 144 acres of land attached, valued at \$7000 ; and the value of the whole establishment including buildings and personal property, is estimated at \$13.000.

2d. The money value of its annual products, is \$1000.

3d. \$300 is the salary of the superintendent.

4th. The sum of \$2000 is annually appropriated for the poor, besides the products of the farm.

9th. The average number of our poor, is 30 in summer, and 40 in winter.

10th. No legacy has been given for the poor of our town.

11th. No provision is made for the education of the pauper children, separate from the public school. A public school is established near the Asylum, where the pauper children attend, and enjoy the same privileges as other children in the district.

12th. A regular physician is employed to attend the sick, when necessary.

13th. The poor are furnished with Bibles, and always have the privilege of attending public worship. Occasionally services are held at the Asylum, by ministers of the Episcopal, Baptist, and Methodist churches. The children attend the Sabbath school.

I furthermore state, that the overseer of the poor is the superintendent of the whole establishment, and makes it his duty to visit the Asylum weekly, to ascertain the condition of the poor, and oftener when necessary.

I would farther say, that some of the transient paupers are supported away from the Asylum, and that the \$2000 mentioned in answer to the 4th query, includes their support, and also the wages of extra help at the Asylum, and the salary of the superintendent. Yours, respectfully,

FENNER BROWN, *Overseer of Poor.*

To T. R. HAZARD.

---

### BURRILVILLE.

Visited the poor of this town, 4th of 9th month ; they seemed pretty comfortable. The following list comprised their number at the date of my visit.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time on Town.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			Y's	W's			
E P		88	7		Burrillville	M	Intemperance.
	F E	78	6		"	M	"
	M H	59	12		Mass.	M	
A Y		51	2		N. Provid'ce	M	Intemperance.
	D I	45	4		Providence	M	Loss of husband ; 3 children with her.

2 males.  
3 females.  
3 children.

---

8 Total.

Reply received to queries.

5th. The town contracts to have the poor maintained by the year.

6th. A bond is required with security to keep them in a christian-like manner.

7th. Supervision over the keeper is exercised by an overseer.

8th. From 500 to \$600 is the annual cost to the town, for the support of their poor.

9th. The average number of public poor is from 7 to 10 in summer, from 10 to 12 in winter.

10th. The town treasurer is the trustee of a fund of \$1000, the interest of which, (\$60) is for the benefit of the poor.

11th. Same provision is made for the education of pauper children as is for others.

12th. A regular physician is employed by the year to attend our poor.

13th. Such of our paupers as are able, can attend at the several meetings held in the town, though no particular provision is made in that respect. Yours respectfully,

L. HAWKES.

To T. R. HAZARD.

## GLOCESTER.

Visited the poor of this town, 4th of 9th month, 1850 ; they appeared to be comfortably situated. The following table comprises a list of all I saw. I understood the keeper to say that he received \$408 a year. for keeping them ; but that they were to be removed in a few days, to the house of another man, who was to have \$312 per year, only.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time on Town.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			m's	w's			
N C		79	9		Glocester	M	Insane ; intemperate.
D B		50	6		"	s	Idiotic.
	M V	72	2		"	s	Insane for 2 or 3 years.
	A A	45	10		"	s	" cause, loss of property.
E K		70	20		"	s	Deaf, dumb and blind.
G T		20	7		"	s	Idiotic.

4 males.

2 females.

1 boy 8 years old.

—  
7 Total.

The following letter was received in reply to queries.

GLOCESTER, OCT. 23d, 1850.

I received a communication from you, a short time since, requesting me to answer certain questions relating to the management of the pauper poor of the town of Gloucester. We have no Asylum in our town. The method pursued by our town, is to put out as many of our pauper poor as we can contract for, among their relatives ; and the remainder are put to the person who will keep them for the least sum, provided he is a person that the town approves of. There are now fifteen on our poor list, which I think is full an average number. They were put out last August for one year. Ten were put out among their relations, and the other five, to a person to be kept under the supervision of an overseer appointed by the town. It costs us from 800 to \$1000 a year, to support our paupers.

There has never any fund or legacy been given to our town for the support of our poor.

There is no special provision made by our town, for the education of the poor children.

Medical attendance is to be provided by the person or persons who contract to keep our poor.

There are no Bibles furnished by the town for the use of the poor; neither is there any special provision made for their attendance on public worship. Yours, &c.,

JOHN HAWKINS, *Prest. of Town Coun'l.*

To T. R. HAZARD.

### FOSTER.

Visited the poor of this town, 5th of 9th month. The house where they were then residing, seemed convenient and well situated; but there was not enough regard paid to cleanliness. The following is a list of its pauper inmates at that date.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time on Town.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			Y's	W's			
G D		71	2		Warwick	s	Personal injury.
C B		45	12		Foster	m	Insane.
D H		31		4	"	s	Idiotic.
G H		55	3		"	s	Insane.
H W		46	7		"	m	Insane, now chained and has been for 7 years.
	E H	40	4		"	s	Insane, also distressing impediment in throat.
	E H	80	11		"	s	Old age and ill health.
	C T	36	1		Conn.	m	Intemperate husband; 1 child with her.
	P Y	75	15		Scituate		Insane.

5 males.

4 females.

2 children.

11 total.

The following are replies to queries.

1st. The town of Foster has no Asylum.

5th. The method pursued by the town, is to contract, annually, with some person to maintain all the poor.

6th. There is a standing committee to see to the good treatment of the public poor, (together with the overseers of the poor,) who are vested with authority to take them away and to provide a new place for them to be maintained.

7th. The supervision exercised by the town over the keepers of their poor, is—power to take them away as above stated, and end the contract, and cause the keepers of the poor to feed, clothe and treat them well, during the time contracted for.

8th. The annual cost of the maintenance of our poor, has been about \$500, for the last twenty years.

10th. No fund or legacy has been given for the benefit of the poor of Foster.

11th. The keeper of the poor is bound by contract, to send all the children of proper age, to school the whole time; the expense paid by the town.

12th. A regular physician attends on all occasions when called for, and his account is paid annually by the town.

13th. There has been nothing done in particular, to furnish the poor with Bibles; but all who are capable, can read the Bible when they please, and have the same means to unite with their wealthier brethren in worshipping their Creator, (such as are disposed,) as others in the vicinity.

GARDINER HOWARD, *Pres. Town Coun.*

To T. R. HAZARD.

### SCITUATE.

The Asylum for the poor of this town, is pleasantly and conveniently situated on the road; is well arranged for the accommodation of the poor, and appears to be well conducted. The following was a list of its pauper inmates on the 5th of last 9th month, the date of my visit.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time in Asylum.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			Y's	W's			
	C P	80		8	Scituate	M	Old age and poverty.
s s		57	5		Cranston	M	Intemperance.
	P W	40	5		"	M	Imbecility of mind.
	P K	40	5		Scituate	s	" " "
J S		30	6		"	s	" "
L S		36	6		"	s	" "
J B		55		4	"	s	Idleness.
D W		32	6		New York	s	Blind from infancy.
R B		65			Scituate	s	Imbecility of mind from youth.
H B		75	25		Scituate	M	Imbecility of mind.
	J Y	87	6		"	s	Old age.
	C K	80	2		Ireland	M	Insane.
W S		39		4	"	s	Loss of eye.
	B W	83	5		Scituate	M	Old age.

8 males.

6 females.

—  
14 total.

The following letter is in reply to queries.

SCITUATE, Nov. 30th, 1850.

Your letter to me of the 18th inst., with accompanying circular, was duly received, and agreeably to your request, and in conformity with my own feelings, I now proceed to give you the information required.

In the month of October, 1844, the people of this town purchased a farm, containing 100 acres of land, with all the necessary buildings thereon, for the purposes of an Asylum for the poor of the town, at a cost of \$4000. The inventory of the personal property of the town Asylum, by the last report, was about \$952—making the total amount of capital invested by the town in the Asylum, \$4952. Last year there was kept at the Asylum—six cows, one horse, eight hogs, some sheep and fowls. The yearly products of the farm, are about—

20 tons of good English hay, valued about \$12	
per ton,	\$240 00
150 bushels of corn, 75 cents per bushel,	112 00
150     "     " potatoes, 50 cents     "	75 00
50     "     " garden roots, 50 cts.     "	25 00
500 lbs. cheese, 6 cents,	30 00
400     " butter, 20 cents,	80 00
20 cords wood, \$2.50,	50 00
Products of a good orchard,	75 00
2,400 lbs. pork, 6 cents,	144 00
Products of the fowls,	20 00
	<hr/>
Total,	\$851 00

The town employs a man and his wife to take charge of the Asylum and to take the general superintendence of the farm and all the pauper poor that may be put there by order of the town, by the honorable town council or by the overseers of the poor, annually appointed by the town. Besides this, the town has a general agent of annual appointment, to take the supervision of all things relative to the management of the Asylum, including alterations, improvements, &c., together with all contracts, sales, &c. connected with its concerns.

The number of the pauper poor for the past year has been eleven, five females and six males, and the expenses of the town for their support and for the management of the farm and Asylum for the same period, has been as follows :—

For superintendent and wife,	\$200 00
Doctors, J. C. Roberts and T. O. H. Carpenter's	
bills for medicine and attendance,	21 63
All other expenses of farm and Asylum,	161 08
	<hr/>
Total expenses,	\$382 71

A female became chargeable to the town by reason of becoming insane, and in order to secure for her the best treatment in that worst of all human maladies, and to promote her speedy recovery and return to the bosom of her worthy and afflicted family, the town sent her to the Butler Hospital. After being there two weeks only, she was taken worse and

died. Her remains were returned to the family and there interred. Expenses at the Butler Hospital ten dollars, other expenses, probably twenty dollars—making the total expenses paid by the town for the support of their poor, \$412.71.

The agent, superintendent and overseers of the pauper poor of the town, are required to see that all of them, both old and young, are kindly and humanely treated.

Both in regard to health and comfort, a good physician is always required to attend when any of the poor are sick or ailing.

A district school is kept about a furlong from the Asylum, where all the pauper children have the same privilege of acquiring a common school education as the other children in the vicinity.

In regard to their religious privileges, our public poor enjoy the same freedom of religious worship as all the good people of this State have been accustomed to enjoy from its earliest history.

The year preceding the purchase of the farm for the establishment of our Asylum, the cost and expense of maintaining the poor of our town was seventeen hundred dollars; since the establishment of the Asylum, the expense of supporting our poor has been very materially lessened, as you will perceive by the foregoing statement; and I have no hesitation in recommending to all of the considerable towns in the State, the same course as we have adopted for the maintenance of their poor.

The above, I believe to be very near a true statement of the facts relating to the pauper poor of this town, and I shall ever wish you all success in this great work of humanity.

I remain your friend, &c.,

BENEDICT LAPHAM.

To T. R. HAZARD.

---

JOHNSTON.

Visited this town the 28th of last 8th month. The following list comprises the pauper inmates of the house I visited. I heard some complaints from the poor, and the general aspect of things was not altogether satisfactory. The annexed table

shows also the initials of several of the pauper poor who were boarded by the keeper at other houses ; those boarded out are marked thus.\*

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time on Town.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			y	z			
E S		66	18		Johnston	s	Imbecility of mind.
	E G	19	1		"	s	Blind and lame. (cripple)
	E M	10	10		"	s	Born on town.
	*R M	45	11		"	M	Immoral conduct.
	*M W	18	18		"	s	Born on town. (young child with her.)
	*W P	35	2			M	Loss of husband. (6 children with her.)
	*W H	38	8		Johnston		Imbecility of mind. (2 children with her.)
*J L		17	1		"	s	Imbecility of mind.
G F		76	20		"	M	Rheumatism and other hurts.
J J		76		16	England	M	Old age.

4 males.

6 females.

9 children.

---

19 Total.

The following replies were received to queries :—

5th. Our poor are put out by a committee appointed by the town to one person and place, who receives eight hundred and sixty dollars for taking all who are on the town and who may apply for assistance, and to pay Doctors' bills and all other expenses.

6th. The town takes a bond with good and sufficient security for the good treatment of the poor.

7th. The overseer exercises a general superintendence over what concerns the poor.

8th. The amount paid for the support of our paupers, varies from six hundred to thirteen hundred dollars.

9th. The number of our poor is twenty-two in summer and thirty-six in winter.

10th. No fund has been provided for our poor by gift or legacy.

11th. The overseer of the poor is directed to see that the children are sent to school.

13th. The poor have access to Bibles in the house where they are kept, and liberty to attend public worship whenever they may please to go. The above answers are as near as can be obtained.

### CRANSTON.

The Asylum is pleasantly situated on the public road, is conveniently arranged, and appears to be pretty well conducted. The following list comprised its pauper inmates at the date of my visit, 8th month 28th, 1850, at which time I believe, it had just passed into the care of a new superintendent, which will probably account for some slight appearance of confusion in the establishment.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time in Asylum.			Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			Y	S	W's			
	M C	43	1			Cranston	M	Intemperate husband. (4 children with her.
	C P	54				"	S	Imbecility of mind. (colored)
	A P	51	7			"	S	Ill health.
B G		71	3			"	M	Intemperate.
C S		25	2			"	S	Fits.
	P S	50	14			"	S	Insane for 12 or 15 years.
A W		17	10			"	S	Deaf and dumb. (a cripple) colored.
T J		10	2			"	S	Intemperate father.

4 males.

4 females.

4 children.

12 Total.

The following letter was received in reply to queries :—

CRANSTON, Oct. 12, 1850.

Having received a request from you, that I should send you a statement of the management of the public poor and insane in our town, I take the earliest opportunity to comply with your request.

1st. We have an Asylum for our pauper poor. There are sixty-seven acres of land attached to it, worth two thousand five hundred dollars ; the buildings are worth one thousand dollars—total value, three thousand five hundred dollars.

2d. The value of its annual products is four hundred dollars.

3d. The keeper is paid one hundred and eighty-five dollars per year for himself and wife ; the Overseer of the Poor is paid forty dollars per year ; extra help, thirty-five dollars—whole amount, two hundred and sixty dollars.

4th. The amount appropriated annually by the town for the support of its poor, in addition to the products of the Asylum, is about fifteen hundred dollars.

5th. The treatment of the poor is left discretionary with the Overseer of the Poor, who is required to give bond and make oath for the faithful discharge of his duty. There is no other supervision exercised by the town over the keeper of the poor.

9th. The average number of our paupers is about fourteen in summer and sixteen in winter.

There has not been any fund or legacy given to our town for the benefit of the poor. A physician is engaged by the overseer to attend at the Asylum whenever occasion requires.

There is no particular provision made by the town for the education of its pauper children, although they are sent to school by the overseer both summer and winter, to a free school in the district where they reside.

Our public poor are not furnished with Bibles, neither is there any provision made by the town to enable them to unite with their wealthier brethren in worshipping their creator agreeably to the usages of the different sects of Christians.

From your friend, &c.

DANIEL CONGDON, *President of Town Council.*

To T. R. HAZARD.

#### WARWICK.

The Asylum for the poor of this town, is pleasantly and conveniently situated on the main road—is well arranged for

the comfort of the poor, and appears to be well conducted. The following table shows a list of its pauper inmates, on the 28th of last 8th month, the date of my visit.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time at Asylum.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of poverty, and remarks.
			$\frac{r}{e}$	$\frac{w}{s}$			
V G		20	20		Warwick.	s	Can hear but not speak, (born on town.)
W G		86	3		"	M	Old age.
A C		46	1		"	M	Lameness.
D W		48		4	England:		Consumption.
	L P	17			Warwick.	s	Weakly and an orphan.
	H B	62	11		"	s	Insane, (partially.)
	A M	88	4		"	M	Intemperate.

4 males.

3 females.

4 children under 12 years of age, (2 of them colored.)

11 Total.

The following letter was received in answer to queries.

WARWICK, Nov. 6th, 1850.

I received a communication from you some time since, requesting me to procure answers to the several questions communicated relating to the management of our public poor. The following answers are as near the facts as I can obtain them.

1st. The town of Warwick has owned an Asylum for about 12 years. There are about 30 acres of land attached to it, which is probably worth about \$1400, and the value of the whole establishment is about \$3800.

2d. The money value of its average annual products, is probably about \$150. The land is not of the best quality, and heretofore has not been made to produce what it should; but we are now getting it under a better state of cultivation, and hope to get better crops in future.

3d. The salary paid for superintendence of the Asylum, is \$225 a year, for the man and his wife.

4th. The amount annually appropriated by the town for the maintenance of its poor, in addition to the products of the

Asylum, is about \$612. This amount includes the salary of the superintendent and his wife.

6th. The town requires the keeper to strictly conform to the printed rules and regulations of the Asylum, which contain his duty and also that of each pauper; and the Council is particular not to contract with any person for keeper, unless they are fully satisfied that both the man and his wife will treat the poor well.

7th. The Council meet at the Asylum every three months to examine into the affairs of the Asylum, and the treatment of the poor. The superintendent makes all the purchases of clothing and provisions for the poor and presents his bill every month to the Council for examination.

8th. The annual sum paid by the town for the support of the poor, is about \$612. This includes the salary of the keepers.

9th. The average number of paupers is 14. I have no means to ascertain the difference between winter and summer, but probably there are from 4 to 6 more in the winter than in the summer. There is a book kept at the Asylum, and it is the duty of the keeper to enter the name and the day of the month when each pauper comes to the Asylum and when they leave. In addition to the above, the town have two insane patients at the Butler Hospital.

10th. No legacy has been left for the Benefit of the poor in our town.

11th. There is a district school house within a few rods of the Asylum, where all the pauper children are sent to school.

12th. A physician attends on the sick at the Asylum, when called for by the keeper or overseer of the poor, but the town makes no special contract for medical attendance on the poor.

13th. The paupers have access to the Bible, and occasionally different ministers visit the Asylum and hold meetings; but the town is deficient in this respect.

Allow me to say that I think that our public poor are as well cared for, as in any other town in the State. Our Asylum is large and convenient, and the poor are comfortably

clothed and fed, and are kept neat and clean in their persons. The keeper is not restricted in making his purchases, whether of food or clothing, or of anything necessary to make the poor comfortable.

By the statement made, it costs 84 3-4 cents per week, for each pauper—this is the average cost from April 1, 1841, to April 1, 1850, excluding the interest on the cost of the establishment. Yours arespectfully,

JOHN I. WOOD, *Pres. of Town Council.*

To T. R. HAZARD.

### EAST GREENWICH.

The Asylum for the poor of this town, is a substantial and commodious building, well situated on the road; is well furnished and apparently well conducted. The following is a list of its inmates, on the 28th of last 8th month, the date of my visit.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time in Asylum.		Where born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			Y's	W's			
E S		62	1		E. Greenwich	M	Insane.
G F		41	10		"	S	Idiotic.
A F		90		13	"	M	Old age & loss of property.
H S		63			"	M	
	H S	51			"	M	Rheumatism.
G P		75			"	M	Loss of property.
	B W	46			"	M	Blind, and sick husband.
	A W	42			Cranston	M	Insane and confined to grated room.

5 males.

3 females.

8 Total.

The following reply was received to queries.

EAST GREENWICH, Oct. 8th, 1850.

I received yours for the Town Council here, some days since, and have deferred answering, to obtain the best information I could of our Committee, and through them I have replied to most of your queries.

It is about two years since, that we built an Asylum and purchased land. The cost includes two cows, one horse and wagon, and farming utensils—and a part of our expenses includes purchase of manure and improvements made on the land, &c.

We had hoped that our expenses would have diminished the present year, but now I think that we shall have an increase of inmates to balance. Very truly yours,

JOS. I. TILLINGHAST, *Pres. of Town Coun.*

1st. We have an Asylum for our poor, with 17 acres of land attached. \$1300 was paid for the land—the whole value including buildings, \$4000.

2d. The money value of its products for 1849, was about 335 dollars.

3d. For superintending the Asylum, we pay for a man and his wife, \$200 and board.

4th. The amount appropriated by the town for the support of its poor for 1849, was about \$418.

7th. A Committee of three persons have the general supervision of the Asylum.

9th. The average number of our paupers is about 10—say 6 in summer to 13 in winter.

10th. No legacy or fund has been given to the poor of our town.

11th. Pauper children attend our free schools.

12th. A physician is employed by the year to attend on the poor when needed.

13th. Our public poor have Bibles, Testaments and tracts furnished, and are situated within a short distance from our village, where they may worship according as they may choose.

---

### COVENTRY.

Visited the poor of this town, on the 5th of 9th month last, and found them in the most deplorable condition imaginable. The house in which they were huddled, was old and dilapidated—and the furniture was absolutely unfit for the use of the most degraded of savages. This, I understood the keeper to say, that the town was to furnish. The mattresses

and bed clothing were filthy and ragged. Not a sheet nor a pillow case was to be seen, and I afterwards understood that the town did not deem such articles necessary, and therefore were not in the practice of furnishing them. The chairs were all more or less broken or worn out, and there was but one in the house that had both back and bottom. A poor helpless, palsied female, who had not stood for years, was braced in the skeleton of one of these, by its being stuffed with rags. An insane woman who had been recently removed by the town from the Butler Hospital, was ordered from her filthy lair, (where she was confined by the corner of a bedstead being pushed against the door,) in a tone of voice such as keepers of wild beasts use in colloquy with Tigers. At the stern summons, she came forth and stood silent and motionless, to be gazed at—a caricature of despair clothed in filth and rags. No sign, look or token, indicated that she noticed ought that was said, until at her keeper's bidding, she quietly retired to her den. I happened to visit this house when the poor inmates were engaged at what was intended for dinner. A few hours before I had witnessed the poor in the town of Scituate, partaking of a plentiful breakfast of good and wholesome food. This, perhaps, rendered the appearance of the repast before me, the more striking. On the table I now beheld, a dish of unripe, watery potatoes, was all the food to be seen, or that was visible in the house, save a mouthful of indian bread which a woman held in her hand. The supply of these miserable potatoes was evidently scanty, as they were soon all devoured, and the children lingered about the table evidently hungry still. As I was about leaving the premises, I observed two of these children going towards a pond with sticks in their hands. Supposing that they were going to fish, I was curious to inspect their tackle, and called them to me. I found that their poles were taken from a pile of brush near by, and that their lines were made of short strips of worn and faded cotton cloth tied together. They had no hooks of any description, and I question whether even a pin could be found in the poor-house for that purpose. This was a trifling incident to be sure, but associated as it was with the desolateness of every thing around me, I

do not remember of ever having witnessed one that impressed me with a more heart sickening sense of utter and helpless destitution.

I would gladly have been spared the pain of this narration, especially as the friends of humanity in the town of Coventry, have recently succeeded in their efforts to induce their fellow townsmen to take decided steps to do away most of the abuses it discloses. But it should be remembered that these abuses grow in a great measure out of the system of venduing the poor, which, though now abandoned in Coventry, is still adhered to by many other towns in the State; and whose paupers may be consigned by the next chance fall of the auctioneer's hammer, to the same wretched fate that those in Coventry have just been rescued from. And it seems but fair to infer that if these disclosures have tended to awaken the people of Coventry to a proper sense of the injustice of venduing their poor to the lowest bidder, and to the necessity of its abandonment, that their perusal may also incite the citizens of other towns who still practice the same system, to abandon it also. The following were a list of the pauper inmates at the date of my visit.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time on Town.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			Y's	W's			
J	M M	65	1		Warwick	M	Insane, intem. husband.
		70	2		E. Greenwich	M	Intemperate.
	H s	46	27		Coventry	s	Palsy, always confined to bed or chair.
	S c	70	9		"	s	Deaf and dumb.
	B w	50	3		S. Kingstown	M	Insane, confined to a small room.
	A J	34	2		Conn.	s	Intemperate husband, 2 children with her.
	L J	30	2		Coventry	s	Idiotic and blind.
	L J	30	20		"	s	Insane.
	S K	25	3		N. Kingstown		

1 male.

8 females.

7 children under 12 years of age.

16 Total.

The following communications were received in answer to queries.

COVENTRY, Dec. 13th, 1850.

Respected Friend :—Your letter of the 18th of November, was duly received ; I delayed answering it until after our town meeting, which was held on the 11th inst., hoping I should then be able to inform you that we had made arrangements for purchasing a farm suitable for an Asylum for our poor. The next week after I saw you at East Greenwich, I visited our poor house, and the next day attended our Town Council, and informed them of the situation of our poor. It was decided to call a town meeting immediately, which was held on the 11th inst. I am now very happy to inform you that the citizens of this town then decided to purchase a farm for the reception of the poor, with only three dissenting votes. A Committee was appointed and fully empowered to purchase a farm, to repair and build what might be necessary for the accommodation and comfort of our poor ; to purchase stock, farming tools, furniture, and every thing necessary for keeping house.

It is said that the darkest time in the night is just before day, and I have but little doubt that the miserable condition in which you found our poor, has tended much to assist us in bringing about the happy change in our system of keeping them. Enclosed you will find the answers to the questions you sent me.

Very respectfully,

THOMAS WHIPPLE.

To T. R. HAZARD.

COVENTRY, Dec. 13, 1850.

The following is in reply to certain questions propounded to the town of Coventry, by Thomas R. Hazard :—

1st. Has the town an Asylum ? I answer, no.

2d, 3d and 4th, are answered by the first.

5th. Our town hires a man to take all the paupers who come upon the town for a year.

6th. A bond with sureties.

7th. We have had a committee appointed to visit the keeper occasionally.

8th. The sum paid the keeper is \$594, and for the betterments in clothing and for medical attendance.

9th. I cannot tell, but suppose the average for the year, may be about twelve.

10th. No.

11th. They have been sent to school when children are paupers of the town, but it has been the business of the Overseers of the Poor to find good places, and bind them out.

12th. A physician is appointed and paid by the town.

13th. No provisions are made.

ANTHONY TARBOX, *Council Clerk.*

### WEST GREENWICH.

Visited the poor in this town, the 5th of 9th month. They seemed to be well situated and appeared to be comfortable and contented. The following is a list of all I saw :—

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time on Town.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			Y's	W's			
E S		87	11		W. Greenwich	M	Old age.
	A Z	76	11		"	S	"
H G		71	7		"	M	Blind.
	S M	74	8		Cranston	M	Insane (partially) deserted by husband.
	S G	65	16		W. Greenwich	S	Imbecility of mind.
	A W	63	12		"	M	Blind.
J W		43		2	"	M	Intemperance.

3 males.

5 females.

1 boy 12 years old.

9 total.

The following are the replies received to queries :—

5th. Our poor are put out on contract, one year at a time, to some responsible person to keep.

6th. For their good treatment, bonds in double the amount paid, with good security, are required.

7th. Supervision is exercised by a committee who visit once a month, and oftener if they think proper.

8th. The cost to the town for the support of their poor, is from \$250 to \$500.

9th. The number of paupers is from six to eight in summer, six to ten in winter.

10th. No fund or legacy has been given for the use of the poor of our town.

11th. The pauper children are sent to public school at the town's expense.

12th. The keeper is bound in his contract to furnish all medical aid.

13th. The poor are kept near a meeting house where they can attend at pleasure, and have Bibles to read at their leisure.

Signed,

BENJAMIN R. HOXIE, *President.*

### NORTH KINGSTOWN.

Visited the poor of this town, 8th month 29th. To all appearance they were very comfortably situated and cared for. The following list comprises all of the pauper inmates of the house I visited, including two (marked thus\*) who were put out to board.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time on Town.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			r's	w's			
J S		65	16		N. Kingstown	M	Intemperance.
G H		84	8		"	M	"
T C		59		8	"	S	"
W W		74	40		"	S	Insane, perfectly harmless, will not hurt an insect.
	A A	18	2		Smithfield	S	Intemperate parents.
	E W	82	1		N. Shoreham	M	Lost husband and old age.
	N H	85	20		N. Kingstown	S	Imbecility of mind.
J N		50	2		"	S	Intemperance.
S H		15	1	5	"	S	Orphan, born on town.
	* A C	80	4		"	M	Insane, (partially.)
	* S C	75	5		"	S	" caused by sickness.

6 males.

5 females.

1 child.

12 Total.

The following reply was received in answer to queries :—

NORTH KINGSTOWN, Nov. 4, 1850.

Your circular, dated September 27th, is received. Feeling a deep interest in the welfare of the poor, particularly the insane, I take great pleasure in answering the questions propounded.

In answer to your first question, our town has no Asylum that they own.

5th. The town appropriates a certain sum, and then appoints a keeper who furnishes the house, provisions, &c.

6th. The town requires the keeper to give bonds to provide comfortable board, clothing, &c.

7th. The town council are required to visit the poor by one of their number once a month, and report their condition to the council.

8th. The sum annually paid by the town for the support of its poor, is about six hundred dollars.

9th. The number of paupers in summer is from nine to ten, in winter, from twelve to fifteen.

10th. There has been no fund or legacy ever given for the benefit of the poor in this town, to my knowledge.

11th. There is no particular provision made for the education of pauper children, it is seldom that there are any of a suitable age to go to school.

12th. Previous to this year, the town has employed a physician. This year it is the place of the keeper to employ one at his own expense, his pay being a little more than usual.

13th. I cannot say how well the paupers are furnished with Bibles: the town does not furnish any: the keeper being a professing Christian, may supply them. Their facilities for attending public worship are not very good.

At the suggestion of the town council, it was voted at the town meeting last April, to maintain the insane poor separate from the sane. This was not accomplished without effort, which was mainly put forth by the members of the council. We now have one or two at the Butler Hospital, and one in a private family, in this town, which is a very good place. I think that we are the only country town in the State that

support its insane separate from its sane poor, and I hope, for the honor of the town, that they will never be kept together again. Respectfully yours,

A. B. WAITE, *President of Town Council.*

To T. R. HAZARD.

### SOUTH KINGSTOWN.

Visited the poor of this town, the 30th of 7th month. They appeared to be kindly treated, but were too much crowded and disturbed by the ravings of several insane inmates,—one of whom was a boarder from a neighboring town. The following was a list of all those in the house, (with the exception of two from Jamestown, before mentioned,) and also of several marked thus,\* who are partially assisted, or boarded out by the keeper.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time on Town.	Where born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			Yrs			
	I W	45	20	S. Kingstown	s	Insane, hereditary (color'd)
	H C	37	20	"	M	Imbecility of mind, (color-ed) child with her.
F S		22	22	"	s	Idiotic.
W T		68	1	"	s	Intemperance.
	A C	60	6	"	s	Insane 6 to 7 yrs. (colored)
	E H	45	13	"	s	Infirm in intellect, speechless, but can hear.
	E C	84	2	"	M	Old age, (colored.)
W S		40	24	"	s	Idiotic, intempr. parents.
	S C	66	4	"	s	Insane, confined at times.
J R		45	4	"	s	Insane 12 years.
	M B	45	20	N. Kingstown	s	Intemperance.
J E		45	7	S. Kingstown	s	Idiotic, intempr. parents.
C N		26	2	"	s	Cripple, (very intelligent.)
	*M G	34				Insane 4 years.
S N		68	4	S. Kingstown	M	Lame, (colored) father of 21 children.
J S		45	7	"	s	Imbecility of mind.
	R W	38	10	"	s	Insane.
	*W A	50	1	"	M	" intempr. husband.
*S C		40	6	"	M	Intemperance.
*B G		70	2	"	M	Lame.
	*W G	65	2	"	M	Old age.
*G B		74	4	"	M	Intemperance.

11 males.  
11 females.  
1 child.

---

23 Total.

The following are replies received to queries.

1st. The town has no Asylum.

5th. A salary is annually fixed by the town, and then the keeper of the poor is elected by ballot, if required.

6th. To insure the good treatment of the poor, a bond is required with good security.

7th. The keeper of the poor is subject to the supervision of the Town Council, who visit the poor once a quarter.

8th. The sum paid by the town for the maintenance of its poor, is \$600 to the keeper, and \$25 to the physician, annually.

9th. The average number of our paupers, is about 16 in summer, and 20 in winter.

10th. No fund or legacy has been given to the poor.

11th. No especial provision is made by the town for the education of the pauper children: they are now placed quite near a district school house. But few children are on the town.

12. A physician is paid \$25 per annum for attendance.

13th. Bibles and Testaments are furnished the poor; no church within 2 1-2 miles. Occasional meetings are held at the district school house.

E. R. POTTER.

### CHARLESTOWN.

Visited this town, 6th of 9th month; saw but two of the poor. They were put out in families to board individually. The following is a list of all that I could see or hear of.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time on Town.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			r's	w's			
D H		63			Charlestown	s	Cripple from infancy.
G R		60	10		"	s	Intemperance.
J H		60	10		"	M	" and palsy.
	D K	80	15		"	s	
A L		80	3		"	M	Intemperance.
boy		18			"		Blind.

5 males.  
1 female.

---

6 Total.

The following reply was received to queries.

CHARLESTOWN, Oct. 18th, 1850.

I herewith transmit the following answers to your queries, which I received on the 8th ult.

1st. We have no Asylum in this town.

2d. The paupers are put out individually, that is, the town contracts with their friends for their support.

3d. They are under the care of the overseers.

4th. The number of paupers at present, is seven, and we know not how many there will be in the winter, but we suppose about the same as in summer.

5th. The expense of our paupers annually, is about \$350. If they are sick, a doctor is employed, and their funeral expenses are paid by the town, gratis. There has never been any fund or legacy given for the benefit of our poor. The pauper children have the same opportunity to attend school, as others in the town. The poor are not furnished with any Bibles by the town; they have the same opportunities to go to God's house, as their wealthier brethren, &c.

*Signed by request of the Town Council of Charlestown.*

GIDEON HOXSIE, JR., *Coun. Clerk.*

TO T. R. HAZARD.

---

### WESTERLY.

The poor of this town are boarded out with different families, a few in a place. I visited two of these families, 6th of 9th month, at which time there were the following persons placed with them by the town. They appeared to be tolerably comfortable.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time on Town.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			r's	w's			
	M W	43	14		Westerly	s	Cripple from birth, (creeps only.)
	B R	30			"	s	Imbecility of mind and body.
J C		66		4	"	M	Sick.
J B		88	6		"	M	Old age.
	P B	75	4		Conn.	s	Insane—in poor health.

2 males.

3 females.

—  
5 Total.

The following letter was received in reply to queries.

WESTERLY, Oct. 2d, 1850.

I have before me your communication directed to the President of the Town Council, and as I am probably more familiar with many of the facts referred to in your interrogatories, I take the liberty to reply, and answer them as fully as I am able to do. Your first four questions may be answered by saying that we have no Asylum for our poor.

5th. Our town for the last four years, has appointed an overseer of the poor, who has put them to different places—where they could be made comfortable, and pay a sum that might be agreed upon for the year, or in proportion for a longer or shorter time; the overseer looking to their treatment, as the case may be. The answer to the 5th, may suffice for the 6th and 7th.

8th. As our poor are put out individually, and as we cannot know how many there may be, we cannot of course tell the cost until the end of the year, when the facts are reported by the overseer to the freemen of the town. The average cost for support of the poor for the last four years, has been about \$600 per year.

9th. As far as my experience goes, the average number of paupers does not vary either in winter or summer, for the reason, that all persons who are able to do any thing, we assist sufficiently to enable them to support themselves. At our last annual report, there were ten persons supported by

the town entirely, and an equal number that had temporary aid.

10th. There has no fund or legacy been given to the poor of our town.

11th. There has been no provision made for the education of the pauper children, and there has been none on the town for the last four years.

12th. The overseer takes care that the proper medical aid is furnished at the expense of the town.

13th. There has been no particular arrangement made in regard to furnishing the poor with Bibles, nor in regard to religious worship ; but all are permitted to go who desire to do so, and are able ; and they have their choice as regards the place of worship or denomination.

In explanation of the reason why it is so, that by reason of furnishing temporary aid to those who can assist to maintain themselves, there are none on the town except those who are advanced in life, or are decreped, or incompetent to take care of themselves, and would not be much if any benefited by any facilities that could be furnished them for religious worship. I have endeavored to keep our poor with their connexions as much as possible, where they can be made comfortable ; consequently, three of our poor are out of the town. I have in two instances, sent insane persons to the Butler Hospital, and the result in both cases has been beneficial, both having been discharged as recovered.

Any aid that I can render you in the very laudable object you are engaged in, will be cheerfully accorded.

I will take this opportunity to say, that for the last four years, the freemen of this town have made several attempts to procure a suitable tract of land for the erection of an Asylum ; and I think the reason why their efforts have not been consummated, is the difficulty of procuring a suitable place. I hope, however, that when we have the result of your labors before us, that we shall have increased inducements to consummate our enterprise—which, in my view, is very desirable, both for the comfort of the poor, and for the honor and interest of the town. Respectfully yours,

GEORGE D. CROSS.

TO T. R. HAZARD.

N. B. Perhaps I ought to advise you that I am now overseer of the poor, and have been for the last four years, ending next June.

### HOPKINTON.

The poor of this town, as I understood, are put out, an individual at a place. At the date of my visit, 6th of 9th month, I could hear of only eight on the town; viz :—four males and four females, two of them colored persons.

The following is a reply received to queries.

HOPKINTON, Oct. 11th, 1850.

Your circular, making enquiries in regard to keeping the poor of this town, was duly received, and in reply I will answer your thirteen questions according to the best of my ability.

Your first four questions all relate to a town farm, or an Asylum for the poor—in answer, we have none; but the subject has been agitated and meets with great opposition.

5th. Our poor are let to the lowest, the town reserving the right to accept the bid or not.

6th. The town takes no security for the good treatment of its poor, other than the well known character of the bidders.

7th. A supervision is exercised over the keepers of our poor, by the overseers of the poor.

8th. The annual cost of supporting our poor is about \$1000.

9th. The average number of our paupers is about 10 in summer, and about 20 in the winter.

10th. No fund or legacy has been given the poor of our town.

11th. No provision is made by the town, for the education of pauper children.

12th. The poor have good attendance in sickness, provided by the overseer of the poor, and the best of medical aid.

13th. The poor have no Bibles furnished them at the expense of the town, but can attend religious worship, if they are able to *walk* two or three miles. Respectfully yours,

ELNATHAN W. BABCOCK, *Pres. of Town Coun.*  
To T. R. HAZARD.

## RICHMOND.

Visited this town 5th of 9th month, but could hear of no poor on the town. The following reply was received in answer to queries.

RICHMOND, Oct. 26th, 1850.

I acknowledge the receipt of your communication requesting information respecting our poor and insane, and will now answer your queries in order.

1st, 2d, 3d. We have no Asylum.

4th. The cost of supporting our poor is \$100 per annum.

5th. When we had any poor, they were let once a year to the lowest bidder, in the month of June; and such as come on the town after that time, were provided for by the overseer of the poor, until the end of the year.

6th. If not well treated, our poor are subject to be removed by the overseer of the poor to a better place, upon complaint; and otherwise looked after and furnished with clothes and other necessities.

9th. We have had but one pauper for the last two or three years.

10th. No fund or legacy has been left to the poor of our town.

11th. Our pauper children have generally been bound out, conditioned to be sent to school four months in each year.

12th. The overseers of the poor see to the wants of the poor, as regards medical aid.

13th. Our poor are generally let one in a place, and go into families who share with them the privileges they themselves enjoy, with regard to religious worship and the reading of the Bible.

We have but one person now chargeable to the town; he is insane and has been at the Butler Hospital, for the last two or three years. Previous to that he was sent to Boston, but received little or no benefit. Respectfully yours,

ELIAS TANNER.

---

 EXETER.

Visited the poor of this town, 5th of 9th month; they appeared to be pretty comfortable. The following is a list of them.

Males.	Females.	Age.	Time on Town.		Where Born.	Married or Single.	Cause of Poverty, and remarks.
			Y <sup>r</sup> s	W <sup>k</sup> s			
F A W R	M W	76	8		Exeter	s	
	H S	50	5		"	s	Insane, (cause) disappointed affection—child with her
	S P	50	10		Cumberland	M	8 years old.
	F S	57	9		Exeter	s	Insane, (partially)
		42	8		"	M	Accidental injury.
		57	8		"	M	Fits.
	R M	50	5		"	s	Imbecility of mind.

2 males.

5 females.

1 child.

—  
8 Total.

Reply received to queries.

EXETER, Jan. 15th, 1851.

I received yours of the 18th but very recently, and immediately applied to the proper sources to get the information you desire, and have just obtained correct information as follows.

1st. Our town has no Asylum. Our paupers are all put out together, to him or those who will keep them for the least sum of money, one year. In answer to question

6th. The person or persons who agree to keep the poor, are required to give bonds to the town. in a sum double the amount they agree to keep them for, conditioned that they shall be well cared for.

7th. One of the overseers of the poor of said town, is appointed supervisory committee to see that they are treated according to the conditions of said bond.

8th. The sum paid annually, averages from 300 to \$500.

9th. Average number in summer, from 8 to 10, in winter, from 10 to 15.

10th. No fund or legacy has ever been given for said paupers, as I can learn.

11th. Pauper children have access to our public schools, as other children.

12th. The person or persons taking the paupers are obliged to furnish them with medical attendance, when necessary.

13th. There is a house for public worship within less than one mile from where the poor are now kept, and frequent meetings at other places near by.

Yours,

ISAAC GREENE.

To T. R. HAZARD.

Table showing the cost of maintaining the poor in fifteen Asylums in Rhode-Island.

TOWNS.	Keeper's Salary.		Annual products of Asylum.	Average number of inmates.	Whole cost of Asylum and land (or value.)	Interest on cost of Asylum.	Whole amount appropriated for support of poor.	Whole cost of supporting poor including interest on cost of Asylum.	Cost of maintaining each individual.	
	DLS.	DOLLS.			DOLLS.	DOLLS.	DOLLS.	DOLLS.	DLS	CTS.
✓ Cumberland	300	1,000	35	13,000	780	2,000	2,780	79	43	
✓ Smithfield	400	600	22	8,500	510	†1,000	1,510	68	63	
✓ Cranston*	185	400	15	3,500	210	1,500	1,010	67	33	
✓ E. Greenwich	200	335	10	4,000	240	418	658	65	80	
✓ Scituate	200	851	11	4,952	297	383	680	61	81	
✓ N. Providence	300	545	25	5,200	312	1,200	1,512	60	48	
✓ Warwick	225	150	14	3,800	228	612	840	60	00	
✓ Middletown			8	†1,000	60	400	460	57	50	
✓ Bristol	200	700	15	6,000	360	500	860	57	33	
✓ Warren	200	1,000	15	8,000	480	350	830	55	33	
✓ L. Compton	200	550	14	4,000	240	500	740	52	87	
✓ Newport	325	1,000	80	15,000	900	2,750	3,650	45	62	
✓ Providence	600		205	†40,000	2,400	6,846	9,246	45	20	
✓ Tiverton	200	500	16	6,000	360	286	646	40	57	
✓ Portsmouth	200		15	5,000	300	30	330	22	00	
Totals,		7,631	500	127,952	7,677	18,775	25,752			

Average cost for each individual per annum, \$51.50.

\*Since this report has been read to the General Assembly I have received a note from the President of the Council of the town of Cranston saying that he omitted to state in his former letter that more than \$700 of the sum appropriated by the town for the support of its poor is expended in administering out door relief to about 18 indigent persons. I have therefore altered the statistics of that town to correspond with this statement.

†Not definitely stated in answers.

Table showing the cost of maintaining the poor in 16 towns that have not Asylums, (Richmond not included in the addition.)

TOWNS.	Number of Poor.	Annual sum paid by Town.	Cost per individual.	Mode of keeping the Poor.
			DLS.   CTS.	
Hopkinton	15	\$1,000	66 66	Put to person who will keep them for the lowest sum.
Glocester	15	900	60	Put to person who will keep them for the lowest sum.
Jamestown	6	350	58 33	Boarded out by contract.
Burrillville	10	550	55	Put to person who will keep them for the lowest sum.
N. Kingstown	11	600	54 54	Boarded out by contract.
Barrington	1	50	50	" "
Charlestown	7	350	50	" "
West Greenwich	8	375	46 87	Put to person who will keep them for the lowest sum.
Coventry	12	594	49 50	" "
Foster	11	500	45 45	Put to person who will keep them for the lowest sum.
Westerly	*15	600	40	Boarded out by contract.
Exeter	†8	300	37 50	Put to person who will keep them for the lowest sum.
New Shoreham	5	169	33 80	Put to person who will keep them for the lowest sum.
S. Kingstown	18	600	33 33	Boarded out by contract.
Johnston	29	860	29 65	" "
Richmond	1	at Hospital.		Put to person who will keep them for the lowest sum.
	171	\$7,798		

Average cost for each individual per annum, \$45,60.

\* Estimated number.

† Estimated from tables before receipt of answers to circular.

The following table shows the initials and ages of all the patients that were supported by the several towns of the State of Rhode-Island at the Butler Hospital at the date of 7th mo. 5th, 1850, and also of all those that were supported

at that institution by the city of Providence 9th mo. 3d, 1850.

Where from.	Males.	Age.	Where from.	Females.	Age.
Providence	R A	40	Providence	A C	48
"	G O	66	"	M C	33
"	E P	34	"	R G	54
"	D S	53	"	M H	57
"	J W	32	"	H H	38
"	E B	50	"	J B	54
"	M C	28	"	E C	35
"	G C	17	"	E C	63
"	H C	62	"	E C	45
"	W F	55	"	M D	33
"	B F	48	"	C D	22
"	H G	31	"	M D	41
"	P G	64	"	M F	58
"	D G	29	"	E G	38
"	S L	52	"	A M	40
"	J N	67	"	M M C	22
"	F P	34	"	E M C	30
"	S P	25	"	C M G	28
"	B L	60	"	M O B	25
"	F W	48	"	E O B	30
Smithfield	M M	40	"	M P	43
"	J W	46	"	C P	35
L. Compton	E B	38	"	A F	30
Warwick	A G	21	"	C J	28
"	G H	25	"	M W	40
Westerly	J L	76	"	A W	28
Newport	E S	40	Johnston	A B	64
Richmond	B F	38	Newport	H B	31
			N. Kingstown	E H	50
			Cumberland	M N	27
Total, 28 males,			30 females.		

# RECAPITULATION.

46 Patients at Butler Hospital from Providence, cost \$2,25 per week,	\$6,786 00 per ann.
12 " from all other towns in the State,	25,752 00
500 Paupers at 15 Asylums for the Poor, cost per annum,	7,798 00
171 " in 16 other remaining towns,	8,967 23
Out door relief paid by city of Providence and for the sick,	1,000 00
" " town of Smithfield,	700 00
" " town of Cranston,	
Total, 729 poor in R. I. maintained by the public, (besides out door relief.)	\$51,003 23
Annual cost to the people of Rhode-Island,	

## BUTLER HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

This institution, situated within the chartered limits of the city of Providence, was incorporated by the General Assembly of Rhode-Island, at their January Session, 1844.

The funds for its establishment were derived from the following sources ; viz :—

Bequeathed by the late Nicholas Brown,	\$30.000 00
Donation from the late Cyrus Butler,	40.000 00
Subscribed by all other persons, most of them citizens of Rhode-Island,	57.935 28
	<hr/> \$127.935 28

It is required by the terms of the gift of the late Cyrus Butler, that the sum of \$50.000 shall always be kept on interest, and the income be applied to the current expenses of the Hospital.

Owing to circumstances incident to the commencement of new institutions of this kind, the Hospital became early involved in debt, from which they were generously relieved by Alexander Duncan, who, some time since, made a donation to the corporation of \$20.000 ; which sum sufficed to cancel all the indebtedness of the Hospital, and leave a small balance to its credit. The institution is now entirely out of debt.

By a statement, kindly furnished me by Dr. Ray, the superintendent, it appears that there were in the Hospital, the 17th of last month—

15	Patients from without the State.
61	R. I. patients, supported by city and towns.
26	“ “ “ by their friends.
12	“ by State appropriation and friends.
1	“ by town and friends.

---

115 Total ; of these, 52 were males, and 63 females.

Of the 100 patients belonging to Rhode-Island,

23 were from foreign parts.

74 were born in the State.

3 “ “ in other States.

---


For the information of the public generally, I have thought it best to copy into this report the following forms, required to be filled up and conformed to, on the admission of patients.

## CERTIFICATE AND APPLICATION.

I hereby certify that Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
is insane.

*Physician.*

I request that the above named insane person may be admitted as a patient into the Butler Hospital for the insane.

 This should be signed by the guardian or nearest relative or friend of the applicant, stating the relationship after the signature.

## OBLIGATION.

In consideration of \_\_\_\_\_ being admitted a patient into the Butler Hospital for the insane, at our request, we, the undersigned, promise the Hospital to pay to the Treasurer thereof, at said Hospital, quarterly, on the first days of January, April, July and October, with interest after said days respectively, the rate of board determined by the Trustees of said Hospital and stated in the order of admission hereunto affixed, to provide or pay for all requisite clothing and other things necessary or proper for the health and comfort of said patient, to remove said patient when discharged, to reimburse funeral expenses in case of death, and if removed uncured, against the advice and consent of the Superintendent, before the expiration of three calendar months, to pay board for thirteen weeks.

Witness our hands this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_


*Principal.*  
*Surety.*

## ORDER OF ADMISSION.

*To the Superintendent of the Butler Hospital for the Insane :*

Receive the above named patient, if brought within two weeks from date, at \_\_\_\_\_ dollars \_\_\_\_\_ cents per week.

} *Visiting*  
} *Committee.*

 The obligation is to be signed by responsible persons as principal and surety; if from a distance, and unknown, a certificate from the Selectmen, or other satisfactory evidence of sufficient ability, must accompany the bond.

[The foregoing forms are not required for the admission of paupers.]

Thinking that a perusal, by citizens of other towns, of the following regulations adopted by the town of Warwick for the government of their Asylum, may be of public service, I have thought best to copy them.

#### LAWS, RULES &c. OF WARWICK ASYLUM FOR THE POOR.

The Master of the Asylum shall keep a register of all persons admitted into the establishment ; on which register shall be entered the names of the persons admitted, their ages, by whose order sent, their employment, time of death or discharge, and the time they have been supported by the town.

He shall keep a list or inventory of all clothing and furniture belonging to the house ; the same to be laid before the Town Council, at their quarterly meetings.

He shall superintend every thing within the Asylum, and also the farm ; and see that the rules of the institution, and the orders of the Town Council, are duly enforced ; reporting to them the destruction or waste of any of the property belonging to the town.

He shall cause the bell to be rung at six o'clock in the summer, and at half past seven in the winter, for the family to assemble ; and every evening at nine o'clock, to retire to rest ; and shall see that all lights are extinguished, except such as may be required in sick rooms.

He shall attend, as far as practicable, to the security and comfort of the insane—keeping them in separate apartments.

On Sunday, when religious services are performed at the Asylum, or in the vicinity, he shall cause all such inmates of the house, whose condition will admit, to attend the same in clean apparel, and see that their behavior is decorous.

He shall, under the advice and direction of the Town Council, procure all the necessary supplies for the support and clothing of the poor, and also the necessary stock and tools required at the Asylum, and shall render to the Town Council, quarterly, his accounts, with vouchers for each charge.

The Matron of the Asylum shall cause the rooms to be swept, and the beds regularly made every day and the rooms properly aired. The clothing of the poor to be kept clean, and their clothes changed, at least, once a week.

She shall particularly attend to the females and children, and see that the nurses employed by her, behave with proper attention and humanity, to the sick and infirm under their care.

On the death of any person at the Asylum, the Master or Matron shall take charge of all their apparel, and cause the same to be cleansed and deposited in some safe place, and report to the Town Council for their orders.

All persons bringing with them clothing or furniture, shall be entitled to take the same away, whenever they shall be discharged.

The Town Council, at their quarterly meetings, shall have a particular examination of all the persons in the Asylum, and shall discharge such as may appear to be no longer entitled to continue there; and may at any time, discharge such as, in their opinion, ought not to be continued there.

The Master and Matron shall cause the food to be well prepared and justly distributed, and the table set in decent order. The bell shall be rung fifteen minutes before each meal, when every one shall cease from labor, and prepare themselves for their meals; and at the ringing of the second bell, in proper order, repair to the dining room; those not attending punctually, shall lose that meal, unless they can render a satisfactory reason for their absence.

The Master and Matron, one or both, shall be present at every meal, and see that proper order and conduct be preserved. Half an hour shall be allowed for each meal, and at the ringing of the bell, all shall repair to their different employments.

All persons in the Asylum, shall obey the rules and regulations, and behave respectfully to those placed over them. No one shall smoke in bed nor disturb the house by clamor or noise. The Master shall note in a book, the specified faults or offences, and lay the same before the Town Council, at their several meetings.

The Master shall not allow any improper intercourse between the sexes: any violations of this rule shall be severely punished. No one shall strike, abuse, or give ill language to another; or be guilty of profane language, or of any indecent behavior, on the penalty of solitary confinement, for a term not exceeding two days, and of a short allowance of food.

No one shall leave the farm without a ticket of permission from the Master, or in his absence, from the Matron, specify-

ing the time of such absence; and shall return at the time specified and deliver his or her ticket to the Master or Matron, and for neglect of so doing, shall be denied the priviledge of absence thereafter, unless satisfactory excuse be offered to the Master.

On suspicion that any of the poor have taken any property from the farm not belonging to them, or in returning, have brought any kind of spirituous liquors, or any liquors that lead to intoxication, such person shall be searched by the Master, and if found guilty, shall be punished by imprisonment in his or her room, or in the cell, for a time not exceeding five days.

After the bell is rung every morning, (Sundays excepted,) the Master shall direct such of the people to work, as are capable. He shall enter in a book, the names of all persons under his care, able to work, and shall cause them to be called over every morning. Every person shall repair to his or her work as directed by the Master, and shall diligently attend to the same during the time prescribed by him, and he shall comply with the orders of the Town Council, as to the branches of work to be carried on; to the number and extent of working hours, and to allowance of time for meals, relaxation and rest.

Persons attempting to excuse themselves from their tasks by reason of sickness, shall be examined by a physician, who shall deliver to the Master, a written report of the state of such person's health. If sick, they shall be exempted from labor; but if the sickness is feigned, such person shall be punished by an addition of labor to their daily work, and be liable to such other punishment and restriction, as shall be determined by the Town Council.

If any person able to work, shall refuse or neglect to repair promptly to his or her proper employment; or shall loiter, or be idle; or shall not perform the task to him or her prescribed, or shall injure or waste any of the tools, or materials to him or her delivered; or shall violate any of the orders or directions given by proper authority, with respect to his or her work, or shall hinder, disturb or obstruct any other person or persons in their respective employments; every such

offender shall be punished, either by the privation of a meal, or day's allowance, or by such an addition of labor to his or her daily task, or by solitary confinement in the cell, not exceeding one week at any one time, as may be determined on by the Town Council—to whom, at their first meeting after the occurrence of such delinquency, or the commission of any such offence, the Master shall be bound to make report.

No visitors shall be admitted on the farm, unless by a permit from a member of the Town Council, Overseer of the Poor, or Advising Committee—except friends and relations of the sick, who may be admitted at all times by the Master, or in his absence, by the Matron.

The following was kindly furnished by the keeper of the Newport Asylum.

"BILL OF FARE FOR THE INMATES OF NEWPORT ASYLUM."

BREAKFAST :

Rye and indian bread, with good milk porridge.

SUPPER :

Flour and indian bread, with good milk porridge, (first days excepted,) when tea and coffee, sugar and molasses, with butter at each meal shall be substituted.

DINNER :

First day.—Boiled Indian or Rice Pudding, with milk or molasses.

Monday.—Boiled Beef, with all kinds of seasonable vegetables in sufficient quantities.

Tuesday.—Minced salt Fish and potatoes, fried in fat.

Wednesday.—Stew, of Fish or meat.

Thursday.—Pork and beans, with other vegetables.

Friday.—Fish, as on Tuesday.

Saturday.—Soup, of a nutritious quality—and bread in sufficient quantity at every meal.

Both the men and women who make themselves useful about the house and farm, have tea, coffee and butter daily, with meat three times a day, if they request it. The sick are fed under the direction of the physician, and are furnish-

ed with every thing their appetite requires—old people likewise.

Sweet green corn, apple dumpling, fried fish occasionally. At Christmas, roast Turkeys, &c. A true copy.

WM. H. REED, *Keeper*.

*Newport Asylum, July 8th, 1850.*

## DONATIONS OR LEGACIES FOR THE POOR.

It will be seen by referring to the answers received to the questions on this subject, embodied in the circular sent by me to the several towns, that there has been given or bequeathed for the use of the poor, the following funds.

In trust with the overseer of the poor of the town of Jamestown, for their use, the sum of \$30 annually. Bequeathed by the late Andrew Freebody.

By the same testator, the rents of a lot of land of 7 acres, was given to the poor of Newport; who also had bestowed for their use, the interest of \$500, by Mr. Derby, a wealthy resident of that town. Also a share in the New England Commercial Bank was bequeathed for their use by the late Sarah Redwood.

The overseers of the town of Middletown, are made the trustees of a fund of \$40 a year, left for the benefit of the poor of that town, by the late Andrew Freebody.

A fund called the "Cambell Fund," amounting to \$5.500, is held in trust by John T. Child, George W. Carr, and Seth Peck, for the use of indigent children in the town of Warren.

The town treasurer of Burrillville, holds in trust the sum of \$1000, the interest of which is for the use of the poor of that town.

There has been bequeathed to the city of Providence, by Ebenezer Knight Dexter, a valuable property now occupied as an Asylum for the poor, for which purpose I suppose it to have been given; and also by the same testator, a fund for the use of the poor of that city, which last year yielded an income amounting to \$4.394 15. Also for the same uses, what is called the "Tillinghast Donation," which yielded last year an income of \$14.

List of Insane persons in Rhode Island, as contained in the census of 1850, exclusive of those who are supported by the towns and the city of Providence; also the initials of the heads of families or persons with whom they reside.

TOWNS.	Males.	Females.	Y <sub>s</sub>  Age.	Who liv- ing with.	TOWNS.	Males.	Females.	Y <sub>s</sub>  Age.	Who liv- ing with.
Newport		E S	11	T D S	Coventry		M A		S W A
"		B J	80	G T	"	E R S			W S
"		N M	56	M M	W. Greenwich		A H	30	C D H
"		R F	46	J F	"		M C	50	J C
"		P E	50	M W S	"	S D C			
Middletown		E E	43	A S	"		A L	44	J B
Tiverton	J S N		55		E. Greenwich		P O	70	S O
"	S T		40	J T	"	G M		49	M M
"	M L		37	W M	Warwick	E S		63	
Portsmouth		S E H	35	J E H	"		E F	48	S C
Little Compton		H P S	40	L P	"	F S		21	T S
" "	A B		41	J B	"		S C	54	J W
Bristol	W C		73	S H	"		H A L	44	A L
Warren	A G			D G F	"		F G	63	B G
Hopkinton		S B	61	P G	"		E R G	25	B G
"		H K	53	A K	Gloicester		A G	50	M G
"	A W		32	S W	"		C K	67	B K
"	R B		49	M B	"		A A	51	M A
"		A B	54	Z B	Cranston	J P		83	S P
Westerly		A G	35	E G	"		A F	40	A F
"		E C	26	M C	"	W B		32	L B
"		M T	51	P S T	Providence	W F		50	
S. Kingstown		M G	39	M B	"	D W		82	
"		A G	37	M B	"	J S G		24	C E N
Exeter		E A	51	P A	"		S T K	34	G M B
"		A A	72	J M	"	W N T		30	T T
"	J S		75	C A B	"	C F H		22	T G H
"	W F D		50	J S T	"	S B		45	
"		A H	45	N H	But. Hospital		M D	32	
Richmond	G A		47		"	B S		71	
"	B B T		37	R C J	"		C F	31	
N. Kingstown		A M B	51	B P B	"	T W		47	
"	P S		55		"		M W	43	
"	M A G		33	J P	"		S S	45	
"	C G C		39	N C	"	W F		20	
Coventry		R A W	40	J W	"		L P	26	
"		A C		B C	"		H S	60	
"	A G		40	J G	"		F G	63	
"		L S	31	W S	"		F S	19	

But. Hospital	E S	39	But. Hospital.	E P	46	
"	E S	50	"	M C	37	
"	J J	49	"	E L	22	
"	T S	39	"	M L	49	
"	S W	63	"	S B	32	
"	J W	70	"	M G	23	
"	W T	32	"	J C	37	
"	M T	45	"	A T	49	
"	H S	56	"	J L	76	
"	C K	28	"	T L	17	
"	S B	32	"	J B	36	
"	D G	57	"	J S	32	
"	L H	27	Johnston			
"	E F	32	N. Providence	A M	73	W G
"	F N	16	"	B S	78	D S
"	A T	31	"	D G		
"	M C	34	"	S S	44	G S
"	C M	27	Burrillville	J W	57	S S
"	E B	61	Scituate	M W	55	J A
"	J D	29	"	J A	20	R A
"	A W	42	"	J B	36	S B
"	J W	21	Foster			
"	M D	24	Cumberland	C F	16	B F
"	M B	26	"	L H	52	N H
"	S B	51	"	S R	92	B R
"	W P	26	"	S W	63	H W
"	H L	55	Smithfield	I A	40	H S
"	E L	58	"	Z B	85	B E
"	A A	30	"	C A	28	T A
"	G C	17	"	J C	32	M H
"	M L	36	"	J W	41	
"	A H	32	"	J S	29	

74 females.

66 males.

Total, 140

28 pauper males at Butler Hospital.

30 " females " "

34 " males at Town Asylums.

51 " females " "

143 Total.

Pauper insane, 142

All others, 140

Grand total, 282 insane persons now in Rhode-Island.

List of idiotic and imbecile persons in Rhode-Island, exclusive of paupers, with their ages and initials of persons with whom they reside, as per census returns, 1850,

TOWNS.	Males.	Females.	Age.	Who liv- ing with.	TOWNS.	Males.	Females.	Age.	Who liv- ing with.
Glocester		L S	18	N S	Foster	WFH		18	HH
"		O B	15	H B	"		C S	36	HH
N. Shoreham	N L		18	S L	"	D B		48	V B
"	P W		40	C W	"		L H	27	S H
"		M W	32	C W	Cranston	C W		61	B W
"	G G		56	C E C	"	H W		27	J W
Coventry	T J		35	R J	"		EMP	13	D W J
Warren	W B		22	M B	"		T T	35	P T
N. Providence	W D		50		"		M A S	6	S T S
Warwick	C E S		21	A L	Providence	J M		34	W F H
Burrillville		L P	39	O J	"		E H	21	B H
"	M B		50		"	J R		18	A K
Tiverton		S B	5	W B	N. Kingstown		E C	30	W N C
"		C C	23	D C	"	W G		19	R G
"	E H		16	J H	"	R W		15	J W A
"	J D		6	A D	"	C A		57	S D A
"	G B		18	G D B	"	A C		18	J S
"		S G	40	J G	"		S F H	14	T H
"		P F	50	M F	L. Compton	P B		70	P S
"		E F	45	M F	Smithfield		D L	45	E L
"		R S	72	M F	"		A L	41	E L
"	W W		41	*F	Bristol		S C	23	M A C
"		S W	40	"	"	J E S		17	J W S
"	A W		20	"	"	S S		51	M C
"		L W	16	"	"		S L	10	J L
"		N W	10	"	"	GSZ B		19	J L B
"	J G W		6	"	Hopkinton		H C	72	W G G
"	N H		60		"	A N		9	S N
Richmond	T L		53	M T K	"	J K		48	A K
Portsmouth	G M		11	B M	"	R S G		21	J G
"		C B	50	W M	"		D B	19	W B
E. Greenwich		H C G	15	J C G	Westerly		F T	62	J T
"	S B B		10	L B	"	J C		68	S C
"	C H M		3	B M	Cumberland		E W	9	A S W
Scituate	N F		45	J W	"	M T		55	L T
Exeter		S E E	12	L C	"	L B		44	J S
Foster		Z J	38	E J	"	F B		29	J S
"	F P		50	B P	"		M F T	23	G T
"	Z C		42	J P	Charlestown	E C		71	H C
"	Z B		48	W S B	"		S E B	3	C B
"	J B S		15	C S	Newport	J L		32	L L

\*Family.

47 males.  
35 females.

—  
82 Total.

30 pauper males at Asylums.

24 " females "

—  
54 paupers.

82 all others.

136 Total number of Idiots and imbecile persons in R. Island.

The following is a list of blind persons in the State of Rhode-Island, exclusive of paupers, and the initials of the persons with whom they reside, as per census, 1850.

TOWNS.	Males.	Females.	Age.	Who liv- ing with.	TOWNS.	Males.	Females.	Age.	Who liv- ing with.
Warren		S C	30	L C	Newport		M C A	27	E T
"		S C	27	L C	"		P E	73	GWE
"		EACE	23	M E	"		S W	79	GWL
N. Providence	W R		55	J W	Foster	T J B		45	T J B
Tiverton	A M		51	T S	"		A B	79	T J B
"	D M		10	M M	N. Kingstown		J B	80	
N. Shoreham	F L		66		"	C N		39	
"		S F S	56	J S	"	V G		86	CLP
"	D D		76		Smithfield	D T		46	H S
Coventry	R M				"		C M E	13	A E
"	J G		39	J W	"	J L		38	
Gloicester	J C K		50	A K	"		S N	61	J M P
"	M D		4	C G	"	A V		68	EWB
S. Kingstown	A H K		15	W K	"		E G	54	
Exeter		E S	57	E S	"		L S	74	A H
"		R B C	10	E S	Hopkinton	E R		25	
Charlestown	W H		17	T J	"		R B	83	P B
Bristol	W R G		35	R S G	"	J L		78	
"	B M		32	J M	"	J B		88	
"		N M	77	A M	Cumberland	A C		17	W C
Newport	G W		20	P W W	Providence	W F		16	J F
"	G D C		4	W E C	"		H Y	81	W H P
"	E P		42	J S	"		M B	42	
"	C B C		13	S A C	"	C H C		36	*

\*4th ward

29 males.  
19 females.

48 Total, exclusive of paupers.  
6 pauper males.  
6 " females.

60 Total blind persons now in the State of Rhode-Island.

List of the deaf Mute in the State of Rhode-Island, exclusive of paupers with the initials of persons they are residing with, from census returns of 1850.

TOWNS.	Males.	Females.	Agc. Y's	Who liv- ing with.	TOWNS.	Males.	Females.	Agc. Y's	Who liv- ing with.
Warren	ABB			J B	N. Shoreham	H D		37	J G D
Johnston		M D	9	J D	"	R D		44	H D
N. Providence		C S	23	GLW	Coventry	C C		9	A C
"		S F	26	HNR	Glocester	GWV		16	J W
Warwick		MET	36	W T	"	A S		29	W S
"	J B		26	GWB	S. Kingstown	C K		36	B K
Burrillville	O O		65	S S	Scituate	A H		6	A H
"		B A S	30	E A	Foster		N W	64	S J
Portsmouth		E S	46	S S	Cranston	C P		51	
"		M S	18	S S	"	I G		50	S L
"	S W C		40	L W C	Newport	E L		46	J G L
"		A S	64	C C	"	J L		44	J G L
Exeter	D C		52	J D L	"		A L	39	J G L
"		A G	64	A G	"	E H		26	P H
"	W D		59	A G	"		B S	89	J T
N. Kingstown		J R	22	S R	"	H S		20	S S
"		T D	60	R T	"	G C		54	G C
"		S D	62	E W S	"		R A C	37	G C
Smithfield	C H S		19	J W S	Cumberland		A S	36	W S
"	W D		36	J D	"	W F S		8	W S
"		D M	25	D M	"	F W C		5	R S
"	C M		22	D M	L. Compton		M E W	6	E W
"		M M	15	D M	Providence		L S	62	§
Charlestown		E T	28	J W T	"	H B		51	
Hopkinton	W S		18	L S	Westerly		M L	25	C S
Jamestown	*O C		17	P C	"		F L	21	C S
Tiverton	J W D		15	W R D	"	G H S		62	W B
"		S M	11	J M	"	M B		31	T B K
N. Shoreham	*N D		50	J G D	"	G G		11	C P G
"	N D		40	J G D					

\* Blind. † Insane. ‡ Colored. §3d ward.

34 males, exclusive of paupers.  
 25 females, " "  
 4 male paupers.  
 1 female "

---

64 Total Deaf and Dumb, in the State.

[The number of paupers in the foregoing tables of Insane, Idiotic, Blind and Deaf and Dumb is taken from the tables under the heads of the respective towns in this report.]

---

#### STATE APPROPRIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE DEAF AND DUMB, AND THE BLIND.

At its winter Session in 1845, the Legislature of Rhode Island, appropriated the annual sum of \$1500, (if called for) for the education of the Deaf and Dumb, and the Blind, providing that not more than \$100 should be paid for the benefit of any one pupil per annum. Believing that it would be generally interesting, both to the members of the General Assembly, and the people of the State, to know what good, if any, had resulted from this philanthropic act,—I have taken the liberty to address a note of inquiry to Mr. Weld, the superintendent of the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, at Hartford, and also one to Dr. Howe, the superintendent of the Perkins Institution for the Blind, in Boston—these being the two institutions in reference to which, more particularly, the appropriation was made. As the education of Idiots seems to be attracting a good deal of attention of late, several institutions having been established recently for this object in Europe, and in this country, I included in my note to Dr. Howe, inquiries on that subject, also—having understood that an experimental institution for the education of Idiots had been lately commenced in Boston or its vicinity, under his auspices. The following are copies of the replies I have received.

AMERICAN ASYLUM, Dec. 17th, 1850.

I am happy to furnish the information you desire respecting the beneficiaries of Rhode-Island, who have been or are now pupils of this institution. You must allow me, however, to be as short as possible, as I am particularly busy at this season of the year.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.	AGE.	ADMISSION.	DISMISSION.
A S	Portsmouth,	25 y'rs,	May 1845,	May 1847.
P S	"	20 "	" "	" "
M E S	"	14 "	" "	" "
F L	Hopkinton,	26 "	" "	April 30, 1846.
J B	Warwick,	20 "	Aug. 1845,	April 29, 1847.
C H S	Glocester,	15 "	May 1846,	April 24, 1850.
P A W	Johnston,	8 "	May 1846,	Now here.
J W D	Tiverton,	13 "	May 1847,	" "
S W T	Glocester,	11 "	May 1847,	" "
M E T	Warwick,	10 "	May 1847,	" "
M M	Smithfield,	13 "	May 1848,	" "
S G G	Hopkinton,	11 "	July 1849,	" "
G G	Westerly,	10 "	May 1850,	" "

As to the progress made by these persons whilst under instruction, or are now making, I would say, (premising, however, that the given ages were those to which the pupils had attained when first admitted as beneficiaries,) that the first two made very good improvement, considering their ages; and that they were removed by their friends much against their own and our wishes at the end of two years. The third was less promising, and did not learn so well; but probably might have been made a tolerable scholar, had she remained five or six years. A.—(the first named) is respectably married to a deaf man, in this State, and both she and her husband sustain unexceptionable characters, and are industrious and in comfortable circumstances.

P.—(the second named) is a smart, active, upright, good young man; getting a good living and laying up some property, as I believe—and with good prospects of usefulness and happiness.

M.—(the third named) I suppose is with her family friends, but I know little of her future prospects.

F. L.—is a woman of good character, now living in Hartford, and supporting herself well by her needle. She had been a pupil here for several years before she became a beneficiary, and most of the time since has been employed in the domestic service of the Asylum.

I. B.—is a mechanic ; was supported two or three years by his father, and one and a half by the State. I have heard of his being industrious and successful in his business since he left us, and that he has lately married. His standing as a scholar was pretty good, and I think that there is good reason to expect that he will do well in life.

C. H. S.—was with us four years ; his attainments were respectable. He was ingenious at his trade and in other ways, and I have lately received a letter from him, which is respectably composed, and in which he expresses a desire to be usefully employed, as he has been a portion of the time since he left us—but complains that his health has obliged him to leave one or two good situations. He has some peculiarities of temperament, and requires judicious management—which I should think his father was capable of exercising. I therefore hope that he may yet do well.

The remaining seven on the list are now with us, and with one exception, are doing well ; the exception is ——, a boy of weak intellect, and it is doubtful whether he will be able to make much improvement. The others are bright, promising children ; destined, we trust, to finish their course here reputably, and to become fitted for usefulness and happiness in life.

I am glad that you propose to speak of the indigent Deaf and Dumb in your report. I think that there must be a number of suitable age for instruction, who have hitherto been overlooked. I recollect the general object of your appointment, as I was present when it was made, and cannot doubt that you have procured a mass of most valuable information, the publication of which I trust will do great good.

I am very respectfully your friend,

LEWIS WELD.

To T. R. HAZARD.

---

PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS ASYLUM }  
FOR THE BLIND.—BOSTON, DEC. 27, 1850. }

Many of the inquiries in your note may be answered by reference to the enclosed report, more satisfactorily perhaps, than in a brief note.

The experimental school for Idiots has been thus far satisfactory. In eight out of ten cases, the improvement is very marked and decisive. Their filthy habits are corrected—they observe the laws of decency—they can feed themselves, dress themselves, and do many things which they could not do before. They are gradually acquiring the use of speech, and some can read and count.

The most we can expect to do is to correct all unseemly and vicious habits; to make them observant of decency; to strengthen the body and give activity and dexterity to the limbs, and to train them to simple manual labor.

We take pupils from without the state at various prices,—from \$150 to \$500 per annum, according to their condition and the pecuniary ability of their parents. We are obliged to seek other means than the allowance from the State, for the support of the Institution. It is probable that after this year, we shall receive pupils from other States, at \$150 per annum.

In our institution for the Blind, there are now seven pupils from Rhode-Island, upon our list of State beneficiaries, for whom the State pays \$100 each, per annum, and their friends agree to pay \$50 in addition, per annum.

Their names are	W. H.	of Bristol,	aged 17.
	O. C.	of Jamestown,	" 20.
	C. C.	of Newport,	" 13.
	E. E.	of Warren,	" 22.
	A. K.	of S. Kingstown,	" 14.
	J. H. G.	of Newport,	" 13.
	M. D.	of " "	" 13.

They are all doing very well. I really wish that you would make us a visit, and examine these young persons; you would find them bright and intelligent, as well versed in common school studies, as youth in your best schools; considerably proficient in music, and expert at handicraft work. One of them you know, Oliver Caswell, deaf as well as blind. He is not with us this term.

If I can give you any further information, please command me. Very faithfully yours,

S. G. HOWE.

TO T. R. HAZARD.

## STATE APPROPRIATION FOR THE RELIEF OF INSANE PERSONS.

At its last Winter Session, the General Assembly appropriated the annual sum of \$1000 for the relief of those insane persons in Rhode-Island, whose pecuniary resources were not sufficient without further aid, to enable their friends to place them at the "Butler Hospital;" provision being made in the Act, that not more than \$50 per annum, should be granted for the maintenance of any one patient. It must be highly gratifying to your best feelings to know that your charitable appropriation has already been productive of much good. The statistics under the head of "Butler Hospital," contained in this report, show that there were recently 12 recipients of this bounty, in that institution; and I am informed by the Governor of the State, who, by law, is made the dispenser of this fund, that he has granted in all, certificates for the relief of eighteen applicants. I know that there have been some families relieved by this timely charity of the State—who would themselves have much rather gone down with their afflicted relatives to the tomb, than to have been compelled to have consigned them to the horrors and degradations which have become associated with the name of a poor house; and through which terrible ordeal most of the towns in the State compel all to pass, however deserving they may be, before they even permit their friends to ask for public aid, to enable them to place their helpless and afflicted relatives at a Hospital founded by charitable funds, contributed especially for the benefit of the poor.

Among other cases of suffering, which the bounty of the State has contributed to relieve, I am acquainted with one of a peculiar and most distressing character.

It is that of a native of the town of Glocester, by the name of Willard Wade, who is now about sixty-three years of age. I have been informed that when young, this man was apprehended and about to be tried for the crime of having fired some building; but it being manifest that he was deranged in intellect, he was delivered into the care of his relatives, upon his father giving bonds to the town, that he should not in future be suffered to go at large. From that time forward, he was kept in custody by the family until his

father's death; who left by will, some rather unproductive looking property in the higher parts of Glocester, to a young man (who I believe had married a relative of the testator) upon condition that he should support and look after his insane son, during his natural life. My attention was first directed to this case by Elisha Dyer, Jr., a benevolent and well known citizen of Providence, who, in two written communications of different periods addressed to me, detailed some of the facts and expressed much sympathy for the sufferer, and an earnest desire that he might be relieved. Under the kind direction and aid of Mr. Dyer, and of his friend in Glocester, Otis Sayles, who accompanied me, I visited Willard Wade, on the 27th of last 7th month. We found him about four miles from Chepachet, in an up hill direction, locked into an out-house some six or eight feet square; into which, after some difficulty, we succeeded in obtaining entrance. The room was as comfortless and filthy as could be imagined, and did not appear as if it had been cleansed for years. The apology for a bed was completely rotten and saturated with ordure. In this room, or in one similar to it, I was credibly informed, this poor man had been imprisoned for thirty-three years—nearly thirty of which he had been chained by the leg; which limb then bore unmistakable marks of the iron that had lacerated the flesh; the latter being much discolored and seemingly united in one solid mass with the bones and sinews. And yet, strange to say, I was forcibly struck with the remarkable benignant and good humored expression of the sufferer's countenance. Both his looks and words breathed, as it were, the *very milk of human kindness*. Although he conversed freely and tolerably rationally, still he uttered no complaint. Neither did he exhibit any indication of suffering—unless as such might have been interpreted a sigh, which seemed unconsciously to escape from his lips, as he dropped, (after standing sometime,) heavily into his seat. My attention was directed to his feet, which were thrust into the lower extremities of what appeared to have been a pair of old boots. Upon being asked, (and not before,) he drew forth a foot,—one of the toes was entirely rotted off; the remaining four, were black and matterated, as was also the ex-

tremity of his foot for some inches adjoining. This was caused, as I was told, by his feet having been frozen, I think the previous winter. No time was lost in seeking the keeper of the poor maniac, who readily consented to remove the sufferer to the Butler Hospital, and to contribute all that he could afford (as he said) towards his maintenance in that institution. With the aid of funds received from Governor Anthony, in behalf of the State, he was immediately removed to the Hospital, where I have frequently seen him since. He now appears entirely well ; his dreadful wounds being healed. He always recognizes me—has something cheerful to say—makes inquiries about things in the south part of the State—and, in compliment as I suppose, to what he deems to be a sectarian peculiarity in my character, converses with me in the plain language.

---

#### METHODS OF KEEPING THE PUBLIC POOR.

By referring to the communications received from the authorities of the different towns in the State, in answer to the queries proposed—it will be seen that four different modes are pursued by the towns in maintaining their poor.

1st. By venduing them to the lowest bidder.

2d. By contracting for their maintenance, with an individual, or individuals, through the agency of a committee or otherwise.

3d. By placing all the poor in one Asylum, owned by the town.

4th. By placing all such in an Asylum as are bereft of home and friends, and administering out-door relief to such as have.

The cruelty and injustice of the first mentioned of these systems—that of venduing the poor, and compelling them to live with the man who will take them off the town for the least sum—is so obvious, that it seems almost insulting to the understanding, to attempt to prove it wrong. We are all more or less, creatures of habit. By becoming familiar with the most hideous objects, they lose in our eyes, half their de-

formity. And this tendency in our nature is, perhaps, all that can be offered in palliation of this wretched system. When stripped of all disguise, selling the poor to the lowest bidder, is simply offering a reward for the most cruel and avaricious man that can be found to abuse them. Without making continual sacrifices from year to year, it is impossible under such a system, that a conscientious man should long continue to be their care-taker. Supposing that by accident or otherwise, a humane man should become their purchaser—he would feel it to be his duty not only to lodge and feed them well, but likewise to *clothe* them well. As the annual sale draws near, the avaricious eye of an unprincipled townsman has inventoried their apparel. With scarcely the addition of a patch it can be made, in his estimation, to cover the nakedness of his intended victims another whole year. His bidding in town meeting is graduated accordingly, against that of their present keeper, whose conscience would compel him to keep the clothing of the poor constantly good—and thus, unless he is both able and willing to submit to annual sacrifices, he must surrender the poor into the hands of one who buys them to obtain a reward by their oppression. But, say the advocates of the system, (perhaps,) we allow none but good men to bid them off—we appoint committees to visit the poor, and we take bonds of their keeper that they *shall* be well treated. This may all sound very well to an inexperienced ear—but really it is but adding the sin of mockery to the still more heinous sin of oppressing and selling the poor. Bad men are not unfrequently good politicians. Such often hold the balance of power in small towns; and who, especially when party spirit runs high, let me ask, is to throw themselves between such men and their prey, should they resolve to purchase the poor themselves—or confer them on a partisan of dubious politics but of undisputed depravity. The very man, in all probability, through whose influence the poor have thus been sold to secure a wavering vote, becomes both the surety and overseer of their keeper. This system is mainly practised in agricultural towns—and let me ask, is there a man in any one of these, who aspires to the name of a farmer, who would in any contingency, offer his cattle at

auction to be kept by the lowest bidder, and depend solely for their good treatment on such security as is taken for that of their pauper poor? Would he not ridicule such a proposition? Would not the strong common sense that seems native to our soil, instinctively teach him, that no bonds nor supervision could compel a dishonest man to fulfil such a contract to his own injury. There would be a cheat somewhere. Bog hay would be substituted for English; or the straw on which it was contracted that the cattle should lie, would be given them for provender. It is high time that this miserable system of venduing the poor, revolting alike to common humanity and to every precept of the christian religion, was abolished in our land. Out of it have grown some of the most dreadful abuses that have ever been perpetrated by man on his fellow man. Through *it*, numberless open as well as secret and unheard of cruelties have been inflicted on poor, feeble, helpless, down-trodden, broken-spirited fellow mortals—placed by their afflictions and misfortunes beyond the pale of our civil, legal, social, and religious institutions; delivered over to be tormented, by the most cruel of their species, with no friend on earth to appeal to—with none to complain to, save the righteous God in Heaven, who has promised that he *will* hear the cry of the poor and needy, and fearfully avenge their wrongs. Doubtlessly there are instances (and I have seen such) where the poor have been and are now made comfortable under this system—but such instances form exceptions rather than make a general rule.

The method adopted by some towns of contracting with individuals to keep their poor—making their comfort the first and prominent object, is far less objectionable than that of venduing; and when carried out in good faith and in a liberal spirit, is perhaps quite as good a system as that adopted by towns that own Asylums, where all the poor are compelled to go without distinction. To separate an old person from a home that they have long been accustomed to, *be it ever so homely*, is very much like tearing an old tree from the ground, *be it ever so poor*, in which it has grown. Though you convey the one to a more splendid house, and transplant the other into a more genial soil, they will both, in all probabili-

ty, soon wither and die. It is cruel when the few grains of sand are running low in life's glass, to rend an old man from the *discomforts*, (if you please) of a home, around which are entwined the cherished remembrances of his childhood's days, and send him away to die. Better leave him to breathe his last sigh where his first breath was drawn—to look for the last time on the sun from the window, through which he first gazed on its beams.

The 4th named system, adopted by some towns, viz: to own an Asylum to which all persons who are destitute of a home and friends are sent, and to administer out-door relief to such as *have*, is probably the most humane and christian-like plan that in the present state of society, can be pursued. It is urged by some, against this plan, that, by adopting it, the public is liable to be subjected to imposition. To meet this it might be said, that other plans subject the *poor* to impositions, which they are quite as unable to bear as the public. It is a maxim I believe, in law, that it is better that nine guilty persons should escape, than that one innocent person should be condemned. This is a sound, christian-like maxim, and one that will apply as well in our relations with the poor, as with criminals—nay, far more so, for in most cases of imposition practised by the poor on the public, the agents of the public are a party to them, in *some* degree. They sometimes designedly connive at what they know to be imposition, to save trouble or to silence importunity—or they designedly betray their trust to gratify friendly feelings, or minister to some of the thousand little hidden and indiscrible ramifications of selfishness, that pervade the social fabric. No individual or community was ever yet made poor by the practice of a liberal, discriminating charity—carried out in good faith—void of any selfish motives lurking at heart, and founded solely on love to God and his creatures. Look where we will, we shall find that those communities that are the most forward in promoting good and liberal things, are ever the most prosperous, even in pecuniary affairs—and by far the most blessed in other respects. *They are twice blessed—in blessing others, they are blessed themselves. They give unto the poor, and it is returned unto them again ; good measure pressed down, shaken together and running over.*

I feel great confidence in recommending this mixed plan of granting relief to their poor, to every town in the State which has not yet adopted it. In building an Asylum, I would recommend that it should be placed on a public road, and on good land if it is to be procured—such as is suited to garden and fruit culture, that the inmates of the house should not be obliged to go far to their work, and expose themselves to the vicissitudes of the weather, far from any shelter. Being situated on a road renders the house easy of access to the public, and brings its affairs more or less before the people who pass it—this operates as a safeguard in some measure for the good treatment of the poor. Besides these advantages, the passing and little incidents that occur on the road tend not a little to dissipate the tediousness that often connects itself with the monotonous life the old and decrepid are forced to lead. There may be counter advantages in some instances, that would render a situation off the road, and perhaps near the water, preferable; but I believe that such will not often occur. Every citizen of the town should take an interest in their Asylum and occasionally visit it—which they will not be liable to do so often if it be located in a place difficult of access, as they would if situated on a road that they necessarily pass in attending to their daily concerns.

---

### KEEPERS OF ASYLUMS.

However essential it may be for the comfort of the poor, that good buildings with convenient arrangements, furniture, &c., should be provided for their accommodation—still all these things are secondary to that of the character and disposition of their keeper. On that appointment will their well or ill being mainly depend. If he be a kind, considerate, conscientious man, the mechanical conveniences of the home of the poor will be made to contribute to the utmost of their capacity, to their comfort. But if he be a hasty, brutal and ignorant man, all these conveniences will be of no avail. The sufferer on the rack experienced, formerly but little modification of misery, whether his tortures were inflicted un-

der the eye of Royalty, in the splendid halls of the Inquisition, or were perpetrated by its satellites, in its gloomy dungeons beneath. From circumstances which have come to my knowledge, I am satisfied that the keeper of an Asylum may establish as complete a despotism in his little domain, as exists on earth—and that such things have been done, among us. It is sometimes made too much of an object in hiring the keeper for an Asylum, to procure a good laborer for the farm, rather than a good care-taker for the poor. And I fear that there are instances where keepers are allowed to understand that the more labor they can get performed by the poor, the better satisfaction they will give their employers. It seems no more than just that such of the poor as are able to work, should be employed in labor according to their ability; but if inconsiderate young men are placed over them and encouraged to over work the poor, great oppression may be caused by it. When the spirit is broken, as in the case of most of the elderly inmates of poor houses, labor is hard to perform, and it is unreasonable to require as much service of such, as of laborers of the same apparent physical ability, who work for hire.

In visiting the poor houses it was my lot to arrive at some of them late in the day, and I have observed in some instances that old men, who had been engaged in labor, had retired early to bed and seemed worried and fatigued. However amiable he may be in character, it is scarcely possible that a young man should be a proper keeper of the poor. Buoyant with joyful expectancy and full of the vigor and health of youth, himself,—he cannot rightly estimate or make due allowances for the infirmities of old age. He cannot realize the change that comes over the spirit of man as he advances in life, even when attended by every outward blessing, much less when old age comes on, accompanied by all the privations of poverty and want. He has not yet felt that the arm of man is unnerved for toil when his spirit becomes weary of the world.

I would prefer that the keeper of an Asylum should not be less than 50 years of age—of a gentle and considerate, but of a firm disposition; and that his wife should be of the

same character. His mind should have been expanded by reading, or by a general intercourse with mankind—and he should have a good knowledge of human nature.

---

#### EXTRACTS FROM RULES AND REGULATIONS OF PORTSMOUTH ASYLUM.

To show that there is a necessity of some State supervision over the public poor in Rhode-Island, I have thought best to present for your consideration, the following extracts from the Rules of the Portsmouth Asylum.

Rule 14th. No one of the poor shall go off the farm without permission from the Commissioners or Keepers—every one who obtains their permission, shall return in good order, at the appointed time ; if any one is suspected of bringing strong liquors or stolen property into the said Asylum, or on the farm, the keeper shall search such persons, and if found guilty, shall be punished as the Commissioners, or any one of them, may direct.

16th. In all cases of solitary confinement for criminal conduct, the person shall be debarred from seeing or conversing with any person, except the Commissioners, the Keeper, or the persons employed to supply their wants, and their food shall consist of bread and water ; and shall be kept in confinement as long as the Commissioners, or any one of them, may direct.

18th. If any person maintained in the Asylum, shall wilfully deface walls, or break the windows of the house, or injure any of the premises ; or shall disturb the house by conversing loud, or shall quarrel, abuse, or strike any of the family ; or shall behave disrespectfully towards any of those having the care and charge of the house ; or shall drink to excess, or be guilty of theft or embezzlement, or shall profanely curse and swear, or be guilty of lying, shall be put into the dark room and there kept as long as the Commissioners or any one of them may direct.

20th. If any person capable of working, shall refuse or neglect to work, or shall be idle and will not perform the task for him or her prescribed, or is allotted ; or shall spoil or

waste any thing delivered to him or her, or shall violate any of the orders of the keeper or keepers, shall be punished as the Commissioners or any one of them may direct.

I believe that it was a maxim of some ancient sage or philosopher—that, *that government was the best, which gave equal protection to its citizens, without distinction of persons.*

If I understand the theory of our own republican institutions, they are sought to be based on this maxim. Our laws are not intended to be framed in reference to persons, but to things. It supposes the administrators of the law, to be deaf and blind to all but the facts relating to the subject before them. Under the same circumstances the same judgment is to be meted to the rich and the poor, the little and the great. It is a maxim of our laws that the *punishment shall not exceed the offence.* The Constitution of our country declares “*that cruel and unusual punishments shall not be inflicted.*”

Now admitting the extremity of poverty to be a crime—in the name and in behalf of the pauper poor of the State, in all seriousness, I respectfully ask you as conservators of the rights and privileges of the people of Rhode-Island, to define what the punishment of that crime shall be.

It seems that there is one town, at least, in the State, who, in virtue of authority delegated by you to them to provide for the care of their own poor, have decided poverty to be a crime of so deep a dye, that any one found guilty of the offence within its jurisdiction, shall no longer be deemed worthy to partake of the inestimable privileges of an American citizen. Henceforth, such persons are taken from under the protection of the institutions of their country, and compelled to submit to laws made especially for their government, and of so severe a character, that for offences so venial as not to entitle them to be reckoned even as misdemeanors in national or state jurisprudence, they are condemned to undergo punishments that would be deemed unusually severe for our State courts to impose for the commission of most flagrant crimes. The operation of these arbitrary laws are rendered still more galling from the fact, that their administration is solely entrusted to one person, from whose decision

there is no appeal, and who is empowered to act totally irresponsible to any other authority ; neither is he obligated to render any account of his acts to any earthly tribunal whatever. You will observe that in one short section of the laws passed by the town of Portsmouth for the government of their Asylum for the poor, there are thirteen offences enumerated, for the commission of any one of which, it is made the imperative duty of the commissioner to sentence the criminal to solitary imprisonment in a dungeon, there to be kept on bread and water during his pleasure. So completely are all the safeguards that have been reared for the protection of the rights and liberties of American citizens, annulled in this unmitigated despotism, that the keeper of the Asylum frequently becomes in his own person, accuser, witness, and executioner of the law. When it is considered that this Asylum is insulated from public inspection, that a great part of its inmates for many years past, have been insane and idiotic, and most of the remainder, old and decrepid persons, it will require neither testimony nor argument to convince men acquainted with human nature, that the poor of this town must have been subjected to great wrongs.—Neither could such men fail to perceive, that in case the keeper of the Asylum should happen to be a man of a tyrannical and ferocious character, that he would be likely soon to usurp all the powers of the despotism, and administer as well as execute the laws himself. That such a man might be guilty of the greatest enormities in a community over which he could exert so despotic a power, there can be no doubt. It will be observed that one offence thought worthy of solitary confinement during pleasure, is lying. By one of the rules it is made the duty of a commissioner or of the keeper to read the laws to the inmates of the Asylum once a month. It is to be presumed that if any person in the establishment should venture to make any demonstration of complaining of his or her treatment, that in reading the 18th section of the laws already quoted, a significant glance by the keeper to the rebellious pauper and thence toward the dark hole, would convey a hint sufficient to prevent any exposures. It seems to have become an established maxim with some people that all of the public

poor are liars, and with such the keeper's word would doubtless be sufficient to convict any pauper of being guilty of that offence, and consequently a complaint entered to the visiting commissioner would most likely result in the complainant being sentenced to the dungeon for his temerity. Let no one suppose that this is an idle sketch of fancy, and that these laws are never executed. In a community, where a majority can be found to enact such laws, depend upon it individuals will be found to execute them; and that such have been found, not only to execute, but even to abuse them, I have not the least doubt. Turn not lightly from the contemplation of these outrages because the poor only are liable to suffer by them; we know not who may be poor. We know not but that our mothers, our wives, our sisters, our daughters, may yet become the inmates of a poor house; what then if, through the operation of such laws as these, they become subjected to a ruffian's lawless will; what if a widowed wife, or a gray haired mother, at some future day, rendered desperate by oppression, (which is said to make a wise man mad,) should, for daring to complain, be cast into a dungeon and there fed on bread and water, with only a plank to lie upon for days and nights together. And yet would not this be a fit retribution for those who, knowing of such things and having the power to remedy them, refused to do so? Why, it was precisely wrongs like these, that once capped the climax of human forbearance and drove a nation mad—that made all France to rise in mass and with gigantic fury, hurl from his throne their monarch to the grave, raze the fabric of the Bastile and tear its dungeons from the ground. The Bastile, once a word of fear throughout the world; its very name had power to chill the heart and make the blood to pause in terror; and yet, the victims of tyranny confined within its cells, suffered none the more for the celebrity of their prison-house.

The dungeon of Portsmouth has scarcely been heard of beyond the boundaries of that town, and yet its victims suffer none the less. The bread and the water of the captive in the Bastile was probably as sweet as that given to the feeble old woman or the broken spirited old man in the

dungeon of Portsmouth ; the stone seat of the one, was no harder than that of the other ; the darkness all the same.—What then conferred such terror on the name of the Bastile ? It certainly was not the stone and mortar of which it was builded as other prisons are. No, it was that in its dungeons lay the victims of a tyrants will ; there, condemned to suffer at his caprice, without trial and without law. It was this, and not the prison itself, that nerved with hate the nations arm, and fired that fierce volcanic burst of frenzy that deluged France with blood.

---

### THE INSANE.

By reference to the statistics accompanying this report, it will be seen that besides 58 patients in the Butler Hospital at their charge, the towns maintain in all 85 insane paupers at their several Asylums and poor-houses. Of these I find noted in my memorandum book the following names of persons, who, as far as my very limited knowledge of the character of insanity will permit me to judge, are fit subjects for hospital treatment.

*East Greenwich.*—Abigail Williams,\* aged 42 years, confined in a grated room ; a well looking woman and conversed quite coherently.

*Warren.*—Ellen Mason and Betsey Chase, each aged about 42 years, chained near each other to the floor and had been most of the time for 4 years or more ; both were well looking women and both conversed coherently.

*Foster.*—Eliza Hale, about 40 years of age, a poor suffering object, insane in mind and affected with a most distressing spasmodic affection in her throat—also, Hazard Wilcox, of the same town, 46 years of age, a well looking man, then chained and had been for the last seven years.

---

\*Since this report has been read I have been informed by the present sheriff of Kent county, Mr. Bateman, that this woman was removed sometime after my visit to the Greenwich Asylum, and placed in a private family, where she received kind treatment—under which, she has completely recovered her reason, and is now well and at liberty.

*Glocester.*—Mary Valet, 72 years of age. Asenath Andrews, of the same town, 45 years of age ; insanity caused by loss of property.

*Coventry.*—Betsey Whitman, 50 years of age, confined in a small filthy room. Lydia Jourdan, (also of Coventry) about 30 years of age.

*Bristol.*—David Cornell, 54 years of age, a most pitiful object. Mary B. Cornell,\* of same town, 50 years of age.

*Portsmouth.*—Mary Slocum, aged 60 years, has been chained for many years ; also a colored man has been brought to this Asylum since I visited it, and is now chained there, as I am informed.

*Jamestown.*—Mary Weeden, aged 70, with the keeper of the poor in South Kingstown, who informed me that he was obliged to lock her out of her room days, or she would not sleep nights, nor allow others in the house to do so, on account of the noise she made—was very clamorous when I saw her.

*South Kingstown.*—Sally Cory, aged 66, confined to her room at times, has been insane about 4 years and is very boisterous. One other young woman in same town, who has since my visit been sent to the butler Hospital.

The above mentioned 16 cases are all that I know of at the Asylums or poor houses of the State that I should feel warranted in recommending being sent to a Hospital ; although, as I have before said, I do not by any means feel that I am competent to judge correctly on the subject. Most of the cases of insanity in our Asylums for the poor are of long standing and are probably incurable. Where such as these are under the care of kind and considerate keepers, it seemed to me that they were as well situated as they could be if placed in a large institution, where they would necessarily be subjected to more restraint, and where congenial occupation could not be so readily furnished them as at an Asylum where there were but few insane persons residing. But then, there is this difference in favor of the hospitals : in such an institution the insane are always insured uniform and kind treatment—whereas, in a town Asylum a change of keepers may sub-

\*Since deceased, as I am informed.

ject the poor maniac to the most brutal treatment, and it will matter but little to him whether this is the effect of malice or of the ignorance of his care-taker.

I do not mean that these remarks should be understood to apply to cases of recent insanity—all such, I am decidedly of opinion, should be placed at once under Hospital treatment. And so should all those cases of longer standing, that cannot be controlled at town Asylums without resorting to chains, to close confinement, or to personal abuses. In the absence of a Hospital for the insane, there seemed to be some semblance of an apology for the dreadful treatment which such persons have heretofore been subjected to in our State—but we no longer have that excuse; and I hope and trust that the day is near at hand, when such abuses will be classed among the most flagrant crimes that are committed on earth—and when communities who sanction them, will be placed without the pale of civil society. Already has there been great progress made in this direction. It is but a very few years since, that men and women, innocent of crime, were chained in dens and caves, and cells, and there left for years together; shut from the light of day, without clothes or fire to shield or warm them. Astonishing as it may seem, I am credibly informed, that a small building that formerly stood in the highway, in the town of Jamestown, has lately been removed, in which an insane man by the name of Armstrong had been confined for nearly twenty years, the year round without fire. But what renders this still more astonishing and almost passing belief, is, that the building was elevated on posts some feet from the ground, and the floor made of slats, with spaces between them, after the manner of a corn crib—that the excrements of the prisoner might be allowed to pass, and thereby prevent the necessity of cleansing his house. He died suddenly; and in preparing his corpse for the grave, many splinters of wood and straws were found imbedded in his flesh, where they had probably been forced by painful writhings on his prison floor.

I lately saw a poor woman at the Newport Asylum, by the name of Rebecca Gibbs, who had once known better days, but had lost her reason in consequence of disappointed affec-

tion, about 30 years since ; from which time she had been a charge to the town. This poor creature was, as it were, completely folded up ; her lower limbs being drawn up closely to her breast, so that her knees and chin nearly or quite meet. From this position they are never relaxed. I was told by a Commissioner of the poor, who accompanied me, that this revolting deformity was solely occasioned by the poor creature having in years past, been shut up for several winters in a cell, without fire, and without clothes, (for the last, as is common with maniacs, she tore from her limbs,) where she endeavored to screen herself as much as possible from the severity of the cold, by placing her body and limbs in as compact a form as she was able to, and that thus the sinews and muscles had contracted and adapted themselves to the position in which her limbs had been mechanically forced by the extremity of the weather.

But very different from this, indeed, appears to be the treatment which the insane receive in this Asylum, at the present day. I believe that I visited it at a time quite unexpected by the superintendent, and by all concerned in its management ; and although there were then 26 insane paupers in the Institution, I found them all at liberty, save one old man ; who, I was told by the Commissioner, was only temporally confined in his room for some misdemeanor, and would be released the next day, which I have no doubt was done. Taking into consideration that these were nearly or quite all old cases of insanity, I was forcibly struck with the strong evidence it exhibited in favor of the judicious treatment of the insane inmates of that Asylum, and felt almost convinced that there was no real necessity for the use of chains and prisons, in the treatment of the insane. And I am most decidedly of the opinion that if such means are to be used, they should only be applied under the skilful and humane direction of men who have made the proper treatment of subjects of this dreadful malady the study and business of their lives.

If men of inexperience, or of uncultivated or depraved minds, are allowed to imprison, or chain their fellow crea-

tures at their pleasure or caprice, it matters not what may be the pretext, great abuses will inevitably occur.

It is but a few days since, that, in answer to inquiries I made with regard to the condition of a colored man, I have before alluded to, who was taken lately from the Butler Hospital and placed at the Asylum of the town of Portsmouth; that I understood the President of the Council of that town to say,—that this man was very well, but that on account of a habit he had of going to the closet and helping himself to bread and butter, he was then chained, it not being thought safe that he should use a knife, as he did in cutting the bread, &c. Still more recently, I understood the overseer of the poor of the same town to say, that this colored man was peaceable and inoffensive, but that he got in the way of the people engaged in the domestic concerns of the poor house, and that he was therefore chained to keep him away. For the relief of such cases as this, I am satisfied that there is the most urgent need of some State legislation. In vain will ever be all appeals to the humanity of a community, the majority of which sanction and defend such abuses. For some years great efforts have occasionally been made by the more humane portion of the people of the town of Portsmouth, to relieve their insane poor, but without effect. They have not only been uniformly out voted in their town meetings, but it has been too evident that their exertions in behalf of the poor maniacs have only tended to rivet more firmly their chains. However divided on other subjects, all parties seem there to unite under the banner of oppression. It was on one of these occasions, when the question of relieving the insane poor was under discussion, that I heard a former Commissioner of the poor, in a town meeting in Portsmouth, declare in a loud and boasting voice, that he had himself once severely flogged an insane person at their Assylum; and to all appearances, the shamless avowal of his brutish exploit, excited the approbation rather than the disgust of the majority of the assembly. It was at this time that the most strenuous efforts were put forth for the relief of a young man by the name of Dennis, who had been brought from Providence, (where he had been at work at his calling, which was that of

a carpenter,) a raving maniac, and not only chained at the Portsmouth Asylum, but absolutely *baled*, as it were, in sack-cloth. I remember, whilst he lay in this situation, putting an apple beside him, which he eat after the manner of a brute, by gnawing it as well as he could as it rolled about on the floor. The relations of this young man were among the most respectable and influential men in the town, and they made every exertion to procure his being sent to a curative Hospital. But it was all in vain. The god of Mammon was too strong for the angel of Mercy. It was some weeks or months after the failure of this effort to relieve poor Dennis, that I visited the Portsmouth Asylum in company with that inestimable friend of humanity, Dorothea L. Dix, and the late lamented Anna A. Jenkins. Death was then about to relieve the sufferer. The strong man lay prostrate and powerless in its grasp. Life's contest with its all conquering foe, was nearly over—I heard the fearful death-rattle in his throat—and I thought as I looked upon a Commissioner of the poor, then present, who had been active in opposing the removal of the dying man to a Hospital—that happy would it be for him, if, when the same pale messenger was sent to summon his spirit into the presence of a merciful but just God, that he might then be allowed to free himself from the guilt of the blood of his fellow creature, by the plea of ignorance.

By the statistics contained in the report, it may be seen that the average time that ten of the insane paupers now at their Asylum, have been maintained by the town of Newport, is more than 25 years—thus showing that the town has been put to a charge for the support of ten persons only, of probably not less than \$12,000. Now, there can be but little doubt that a large proportion of these cases would have early recovered, had the subjects of them been sent to a good curative Hospital in the *very* earliest stages of their malady. Thus, besides the incalculable benefits resulting to the cause of humanity by restoring the patients to their friends and society, the public would have been relieved from a great part of the expenses of maintaining them; and the restored persons would have themselves, been enabled to contribute by their labor to the productive property of the community, and not

improbably, in some instances, saved their families or relations from coming to want and thus be thrown a burden on public charity.

By recurring to the letter received from the overseer of the poor of the town of Westerly, it will be seen that he has adopted the humane plan of sending insane patients of that town to the Butler Hospital, and that two patients placed there by him, were both shortly restored to health. It will also be seen, by recurring to the letter received from the President of the Council of the town of North Kingston, that the people of that town have humanely decided henceforth to keep their insane separate from their sane poor. With the exception of the city of Providence, I do not know that any other towns than these two have adopted this laudable plan, unless it may be the town of Richmond, which, at the time of my visit, had no public poor, excepting an insane patient at the Butler Hospital. In alluding to North Kingstown, I was reminded of a most interesting case of insanity, brought to my notice in that town. It was that of an old man of about 74 years of age, by the name of William Whitman, who has been one of the public poor of North Kingstown for about 40 years. I was told by the keeper of their poor, (himself evidently a kind hearted man,) that this old man is so perfectly harmless that he avoids, on all occasions, killing or hurting even the smallest insects, and that when at work in the field, he will carefully remove with his hand, the little bugs, worms, &c., that are in the way of his hoe, and put them one side, lest he should hurt them. I have thought it was a pity that many of our greatest, and what some might call best men, could not be visited with a degree of this most amiable species of insanity. And for one, I am free to declare, that, far rather would I, that the Almighty should dispense such an affliction as that to a child of mine, than that He should permit it to be cursed with hardness of heart, and a lack of sympathy with suffering, wherever it may exist.

As a final argument to add to others, to prove to you that there does exist a necessity for some State legislation, not only to provide for the better care of the insane poor, but also to protect the sane poor from being abused by the insane, I will lay before you a statement, in nearly the same words

in which it was related to me in the presence of a substantial witness, on the 30th of last 9th month, by Caroline Albro, an inmate of the Portsmouth Asylum. I believe that the character of this poor woman for truth and veracity, will compare favorably with the best in the land; and if uncomplaining, quiet resignation to the Divine will, and meek and patient endurance of suffering under the most afflictive dispensations, is to obtain a reward hereafter—she will doubtless receive a large share.

After stating that some years ago she saw the (then) keeper strike old Thomas Durfee, an insane man of 80 years of age, a *full* blow with his fist on the side of his bald head, which staggered him—because he happened to be in the way; and at another time, seeing old Hannah Lawton, a poor old crippled woman, lying on the floor unable to rise, without help; having been, as she told her, knocked down by the keeper—and a few more *trifling* incidents of a similar character, Mrs. Albro proceeded to state—“that about six years ago, Mary Slocum, (an insane woman) struck my wrist with a fire hook, and shattered my wrist bone and knocked out my finger joint. I have suffered every thing with it; I do now suffer much at times. Mary Slocum used frequently to strike the people here—and once struck me on the side of my head with her fist and hurt me considerably, but I soon got over it. Mary was once jamming a child, about a year old, against a chair. I was afraid that she would kill it, and took it up; whereupon Mary seized a chair and struck me on the shoulder with it—on the same arm that she had before broken. My shoulder is still very lame in consequence of the blow—it is now nearly two years ago, since it was done. Mary came up one morning, where Miss Browning lay sick, and beat and hurt her considerably. Miss Browning died about six weeks or two months after this. I have suffered much for fear of the insane, and sometimes cannot sleep, for fear of being attacked by them. Last winter, I was in my room, which opens into the sitting room, where we usually sit, and I heard Mary Slocum attack Mrs. Cornell, an old woman of about 86 years of age. She beat her with a broom stick on the head, back, and arm, and bruised her arm badly

and hurt the bone—so that she could never after that, dress or undress herself. She used to groan and complain much of her arm—she died about two weeks after the beating. She had (previously) been subject to spells of short breath, and seemed to fail fast after being beaten. I was told by them, who were at the house before I came, and who are now dead and gone, that Mary used to beat them and hurt them much. Mary Slocum once struck me at the table, on my hand with a knife, so as to make it bleed.”

On the same morning and after old Mrs. Cornell was so badly beaten, it so happened that I was at the Portsmouth Asylum, and I have no hesitation in saying that I believe her death was hastened by the beating she had received. Her arm was bound up and she appeared wild with excitement and fright and complained bitterly to me. This Mary Slocum was then chained, and I could liken the position she occupied in that helpless family to nothing better than that of a wolf which a shepherd should keep chained in a fold and which was occasionally let loose to worry and devour the sheep, thus keeping them in a constant state of terror.

The occasion of my visit to the Portsmouth Asylum at that time was to execute a commission which I had received from some excellent ladies in Philadelphia, to remove from the Asylum and place at board for life in a private family, at their expense, William R. Fales, one of the most remarkable and interesting young men with whom I was ever acquainted. For many years this young man had been afflicted with a rheumatic complaint to such a degree as not to be able to lie in any other position than on his side, neither could he turn or move himself in bed without assistance. His limbs were wrenched and distorted in the most shocking manner, and there was apparently scarcely a particle of flesh on them. He was in almost constant pain, which a great part of the time was excruciating ; yet through all his suffering his faith in the mercy and goodness of God never forsook him. To the last moment of his life his countenance retained a highly intellectual and almost heavenly expression. Whilst lying in this state he managed to write with a pencil many letters and some essays, which since his death have been arranged and

published by one of his female friends in Philadelphia, and altogether form an exceedingly interesting and instructive memoir. The sentiments expressed in some of his essays bear a striking resemblance to those of Fenelon, and seem to be breathed forth in the same gentle spirit. His mind was of the finest mould and of the highest order, and nothing but health and education was wanting to have rendered him one of the first of men. He was removed from the Asylum about a year since and placed in a family where he received every necessary attention, but at the expiration of about seven months he was visited with a complicated disease, of which he died, aged about 30 years. Gifted with an exceedingly sensitive mind and of a delicate physical organization, both rendered more keenly susceptible by a most painful malady, it may well be conceived how his sufferings must have been increased by the constant apprehension of being attacked, in his helpless and perfectly defenceless condition, by the insane. He used sometimes whilst at the poor house touchingly to remark to me that he passed many long and weary nights without sleep on account of excessive pain, and that when his pain abated he was sometimes kept awake by the ravings and babbling of an insane woman who occupied an adjoining room.

By extracts from the late census, kindly furnished by the Marshal of this District, which I have incorporated in this report, it will be seen that the whole number of insane persons in this State, exclusive of paupers, are one hundred and forty in number, including fifteen at the Butler Hospital belonging to other parts. It is however, most probable, that there are an equal or greater number than the last mentioned, at lunatic institutions without our limits, that properly belong to this State. It will therefore appear by the census, and the returns from the poor houses and asylums, as I have collected them, that there were two hundred and eighty-three insane persons in all, within the borders of our State. This number, however, I think too small. I have myself detected some errors in the census returns and I fear that there are many others. By examining the tables that I have constructed from these returns, the members of the General Assembly can probably decide whether they are correct as far as their

respective towns that they individually represent, are concerned.

I have heard that in some countries the most appalling outrages have been committed under the plea of insanity, by relations and guardians, who, under the pretence that their wards were insane, have from sinister motive, immured them in prisons or dungeons until they really became so. But it is hardly possible that such abuses can occur in this country, and I know not that any legislation on that point is necessary. However this may be, I feel that it is a subject too delicate and intricate for me to approach. An able paper treating on the legal relations of the insane, was published in the Monthly Law Reporter of September, 1850. It is from the pen of Dr. Ray, Superintendent of the Butler Hospital ; and is a subject which he is qualified by both talent and experience to handle with a masters pen.

---

### IDIOTIC, DEAF AND DUMB, AND BLIND.

Although the objects of my appointment does not embrace subjects of inquiry, that come under these heads, save so far as they are subjects of pauperism, I thought that as the statistics of the whole could be readily obtained with a very trifling additional expense, I would embody them in this report. By the returns of the late census, it appears that there are exclusive of paupers, 82 Idiotic and Imbecile persons in the State, which, added to the 54 pauper Imbeciles, as exhibited in the statements of my returns from the poor houses and Asylums, makes the total number in the State, 136 persons in all.

By the same respective returns, it appears that there are 48 Blind persons in the State, exclusive of paupers—making a total with the addition of 12 paupers, of 60 persons in all, exclusive of 7 pupils at the Perkins Institution.

By the same returns, there appears to be in the State, 59 Deaf mutes, exclusive of paupers—making a total, with the addition of 5 paupers, of 64 persons in all, exclusive of 6 pupils at the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb.

By these returns it appears that the relative number of Insane paupers and all other Insane persons in the State, are as about— 1 pauper to 1 of all others.

Idiotic, 1 “ “ 1½ “ “

Blind, 1 “ “ 4 “ “

Deaf and Dumb, 1 “ “ 13 “ “

If these results are sufficiently conclusive to establish a general rule, it appears that the tendency of the terrible malady of Insanity to pauperism, is 13 times greater than that of Deafness—4 times greater than that of Blindness, and 50 per cent greater than that of Idiocy ; an interesting fact, if really proved to be so.

---

### PROPOSED LAWS AND AMENDMENTS.

I will now respectfully present for your consideration, outlines of such enactments as in the progress of my investigations, it has occurred to me might be beneficial to the great cause of humanity, and redound to the honor and eventually to the interest of our State.

1st. That corporal punishment, and all imprisonment or confinement in dark rooms, or in dungeons, be totally prohibited at Asylums for the poor, in Rhode-Island, by Statute law.

2d. That no pauper shall be closely confined or imprisoned for a longer period than five days, for any one offence, under the authority of a town law, or of the regulations of an Asylum for the poor ; and that in all cases of close confinement, it shall be required of the Commissioner or officers of the Asylums or poor houses, to report the same to the Town Council or corresponding municipal authority as often as once in three months—stating the name of the pauper or paupers, together with their offence and the period of their confinement.

3d. That the use of chains in Asylums for the poor, or bonds intended to confine the limbs, be positively prohibited ; excepting in instances where they may be absolutely necessary to effect the removal of an insane person to a curative Hospital, or to transfer a pauper, charged with the commission of crime, to the officers of the State.

4th. That after the passage of this Act, all persons who may become insane and chargeable to the public shall be placed at the Butler Hospital, provided they may be received there at a rate not exceeding that which is now charged by that Institution for the maintenance and treatment of Insane paupers.

5th. That the sum of fifteen dollars per quarter, for a year, be appropriated out of the State Treasury, towards the payment of the maintenance of each insane pauper who may be placed at the Butler Hospital after the passage of this Act, and who shall have become insane after the first day of this present year.\*

6th. That the annual sum already appropriated by law for the education of the Deaf and Blind be increased to the sum of \$2000 per annum; and that henceforth the provisions of the Act in all its specifications, be extended so as to include such idiotic pupils as may be placed at institutions now es-

[\*Since reading the Report, the following Acts have been passed by the Legislature.]

AN ACT regulating the custody of Insane Paupers.

*It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:—*

All persons who may become insane after the passage of this Act, and chargeable to the public, may be placed in the Butler Hospital, provided they may be received there at a rate not exceeding that which is now charged by that Institution, for the maintenance and treatment of insane paupers; and the sum of fifteen dollars per quarter of a year, is hereby appropriated out of the State Treasury, towards the support and maintenance of each insane pauper who may be placed at the Butler Hospital, and who shall have become chargeable to any town in this State, since the thirty-first day of December, A. D. 1850.

True copy—Witness,

CHRIS. E. ROBBINS, *Sec'y.*

AN ACT regulating the Confinement and Discipline of the Poor.

*It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:—*

Section 1. Corporal punishment, and confinement in dark rooms or in dungeons, are prohibited at Asylums and houses for the poor, in this State.

Sec. 2. No pauper shall hereafter be closely confined at any such Asylum or poor house, for a longer period than five days for any one offence; and in all cases of close confinement, it shall be the duty of the Commissioners and officers of Asylums and poor houses, to report the same to the Town or City Council, as often as once in three months; stating the name of the pauper, together with the offence and period of his confinement.

Sec. 3. The use of Chains in Asylums for the poor and in poor houses, or of any other bonds intended to confine the limbs of paupers, is hereby abolished and forever prohibited in this State,—excepting in such instances as they may be necessary to effect the removal of insane persons to a curative Hospital; or to take

tablished, or that may be established, for the education or improvement of Idiots, as the Commissioner appointed by law to dispense the fund may approve.

7th. That to the duties of the Commissioner of public schools be added those of Commissioner of the Poor, which shall be to inquire into and investigate all complaints that may be brought to his notice relative to the treatment and condition of the poor, and to see that the State laws, relating to the public poor, are properly regarded; and in case of any abuses, to report them to the Legislature, either as they may occur as near as may be, or in an annual report, which he shall be required to make by law, to the General Assembly.

8th. All Trustees or dispensers of funds, or legacies, or property of any kind given for the benefit of poor persons, shall be required by law to make an annual report to the Commissioner of the Poor, stating the manner and mode by which they have discharged or complied with the requirements of their trust; and the Commissioner shall procure, and cause to be filed in his office, copies of all wills or deeds, or instruments, conveying or bequeathing any property or legacies, and see that the true intention of the donors are carried out and complied with in good faith—and include a general statement of the same in the annual report. As a com-

---

and retain in custody, by the officers of the law, a pauper charged with the commission of crime—and all insane paupers now chained, or who cannot be restrained without the use of bonds, may be removed to the Butler Hospital, in conformity to the provisions of an Act entitled an "An Act regulating the confinement and discipline of Insane persons."

True copy—Witness,

CHRIS. E. ROBBINS, *Sec'y.*

AN ACT In amendment of an Act, entitled an Act to provide for the education of the indigent Blind and indigent Deaf Mutes in this State.

*It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:—*

Section 1. The Act of which this is an amendment, is so far altered as that the sum of Two Thousand Dollars, instead of Fifteen Hundred Dollars, shall be annually appropriated; and the provisions of said Act shall be extended to, and include such Idiot and Imbecile pupils, as may be placed at Institutions now established, or that may be established for the education and improvement of Idiots, as the Commissioner\* appointed by law to distribute the fund, shall approve.

Sec. 2. So much of the Act of which this is an amendment, as is inconsistent herewith, is hereby repealed. True copy—Witness,

CHRIS. E. ROBBINS, *Sec'y.*

[\*Byron Diman is the present Commissioner.]

compensation for the increased service incurred, one hundred dollars per annum shall be added by law, to the present salary of said Commissioner.

It appears to me that the enactment and enforcing of these laws would place our poor on as favorable a footing as is practicable in the present state of things, and that in a very short time their good effects would be very perceptible. By placing all new cases of insanity at the Butler Hospital, it is most probable that a large proportion of the patients would recover and be restored to their families. In a few years the old and incurable cases now at the town Asylums, will have dropped into their graves ; and thus the sane paupers will be left their sole occupants, greatly to their own relief, and that of their care-takers.

Through the greater elevation and expansion of mind which must inevitably flow from the more liberal education which the present rising generations are increasingly favored to partake of over those that have come forward before them, a higher standard of morality will infuse itself into society, and relatives will be less seldom consigned to the care of the public by their kinsmen, than has been the case heretofore ; and thus in all probability tend much to decrease the number of the pauper poor. These joined to the constantly decreasing use of ardent spirits in our country—that most prolific source of poverty and crime, will soon cause, it is to be hoped, our poor houses to be but sparsely peopled.

If it is practicable to improve the condition of the Idiotic youth, by education, there seems no good reason why that helpless class of our fellow creatures should not be permitted to partake of its benefits in common with the Deaf and Dumb, and Blind, or any other classes. It would seem a poor excuse to debar a fellow mortal from partaking of the light of the sun, because his sight is by nature dim.

There has been placed in my hands, what purports to be a copy of the last will and testament of Andrew Freebody, deceased, lately of the town of Westerly, in the State of Rhode-Island, in which I find the following item :

“ I give and devise to Peleg Potter of Jamestown, the farm on which he now lives, situated in the said town of James-

town, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereof, to him and his heirs, forever, in consideration of he or they paying into the hands of the overseers of the poor of said town, for the time being, the sum of thirty dollars annually, to be in trust in the hands of the said overseers, and by them prudently applied as a surplus assistant for the comfortable support and maintenance of all real objects of pity, not only those, in the alms house, or that have become chargeable to said town, but wherever they may be found in the said town of Jamestown, whom the said overseers shall deem objects of charity."

Two other items of this will devise similar bequests to the towns of Newport and Middletown, to be likewise used as a surplus assistant for the use of "real objects of pity" in those towns. A complaint has been made to me by a citizen of the town of Jamestown, that in many instances this legacy has been diverted from the objects it was intended it should be applied to by the testator, and paid directly into the town treasury. To substantiate this charge, the complainant has furnished me with what purports to be copies from the town records of the town of Jamestown, signed by "Edward Hull, Town Treasurer." These purport to be copies for receipts of money paid to the town treasurer of Jamestown. The first reads as follows—

JAMESTOWN, April 18th, 1838.

By cash received of Charles H. Eldred, it being a donation from Andrew Freebody's will to this town for one year, \$30.

Under the date of April 17, 1839, is a similar receipt for the same individual and for the same sum. And under date of April 20th, 1841, is still another of the same tenor, for the same individual and sum.

Under date of April 10th, 1842—by cash received of Andrew F. Potter, the same being the yearly bequest of Andrew Freebody—\$30. And under the several dates of April 2d, 1843, of April 2d, 1844, and March 31, 1845, are what purport to be three other receipts for the same sum of \$30 per year, received from Andrew F. Potter.

I have taken some pains to investigate the affair, and find it admitted on all hands by people of the town of Jamestown,

that the bequest of Andrew Freebody has been perverted from the true intention of the doner in several instances ; and I have thought it best to lay the matter thus before you, that you may take such measures as you may think best with regard to what has already occurred, to prevent such abuses of trusts in future.

It seems to me that there is no species of property that should be held more sacred in the eye of the law, than bequests made for the use of the poor and helpless. It is cruel and unmanly in the last degree, to rob such of the little pittance bestowed on them by a benefactor now dead and gone. Apart from this, the interests of the public require that trusts like these should be most faithfully and inviolably executed agreeably to the wishes of the doner—otherwise, although the dead cannot take back what they have fruitlessly bestowed, the living testator, anticipating the same results, will no longer give.

Respectfully submitted by

THOMAS R. HAZARD, Commissioner.

*Portsmouth, R. I. 1st mo. 22d, 1851.*



## APPENDIX.

---

### NARRAGANSETT INDIANS.

The descendants of these former lords of our soil, in the progress of civilization, have become so nearly allied to pauperism, that I deemed they might with propriety be named in this report. I therefore took the liberty to address a note of inquiry relative to their condition, to E. R. Potter, who from the proximity of his residence and official connexion with the tribe, I suppose might be as well qualified as any other person in the state, to furnish correct information concerning them. The reply to my communication came to hand too late to incorporate it in my report, before reading it to the General Assembly, but in accordance with a resolution of your body, I now insert it, together with accompanying documents.

Of this once powerful tribe, I believe that there is not a pure blooded Indian now left in our state. I remember when young hearing old people relate, that they knew the last queen of the race—and that they sometimes visited her. On these occasions she always conversed with them through an interpreter, although she understood the English language. She ever refused to the last to converse in that tongue, saying that she would never adopt the language of the conquerors of her people. I have also seen the arm chair which answered for the throne of the last Indian chief, *King Tom*. This chair I believe is now in the possession of some family in South Kingstown. A house that he built and resided in, is yet standing in Charlestown.\* Our forefathers, when driven into the wilderness by persecution, were kindly received and nourished by the ancestors of the Narragansett tribe. They were then few and weak, the Indians many and strong. The condition of their descendants is now most emphatically reversed; the one has become numerous as the sands of the sea shore—

---

\*For many interesting incidents connected with the history of these people, I would refer the reader to Potter's *Early History of Narragansett*, and Updike's *History of the Narragansett Church*.

the other few and feeble. Let us then remember the former kindness of their ancestors to ours, and cherish the remnant of the tribe that yet remains. Let us protect the little property they still possess, from trespass and plunder. Let us furnish means for the education of their children, and shield their old and decrepid from penury and want. It is true the aborigines of our whole country seem to be a doomed race—that Providence seems to have ordained that they are eventually to become extinct. Every where they appear to be melting away before the progress of civilization. But whatever may be their destiny, I believe that it was never the will of the Almighty that His children should aid in their destruction. To this effect, the annals of the Indian race perhaps afford a parable second in beauty only to those that fell from the lips of the Savior of Men. John Smith, the founder of Jamestown, was captured and condemned to death by Powhattan, chief of a powerful tribe of Indians in Virginia. The tomahawk was already raised by the executioner for the destruction of the prisoner — when Pocahontas, the youthful daughter of the Indian king, sprang between the upraised weapon and the object of her father's justice, and with her person shielded the white man from the fatal blow, until by her entreaties she prevailed upon her parent to spare the life of his enemy. Who is there that knows aught of the feelings of a father's heart—savage though he may be—that will not acknowledge that such rebellion as this is far more endearing in a child, than the most ready compliance with a parent's will. And even so although our Heavenly Father may employ the children of darkness and disobedience in executing His inscrutable judgments on earth, I believe that he never sends forth His own true children on other than missions of love.

---

KINGSTON, Jan. 26, 1851.

*Dear Sir*—In answer to your enquiry respecting the Naragansett Indian Tribe, I would refer you to a report upon the subject, attached hereto, and made at the January session of the General Assembly, A. D. 1839.

By the report of a committee in January A. D. 1833, it appears that there were then one hundred and ninety-nine of the

tribe residing in Charlestown, and fifty or more supposed to be absent. Very few of these were of full blood. Their tribe property consisted of their cedar swamp, of about 646 acres, Fort Neck, containing 19 acres, and Watchaug, containing 80 acres. Besides this, individual members of the tribe own large tracts according to their usages, confirmed to them by law, and which they cannot sell except by permission of the Legislature.

Many years ago a considerable portion of the Indians emigrated to New-York, and joined the Brothertown Indians. From there many of them have since gone to the Green Bay settlement in Wisconsin.

Since the temperance reform, the condition of the Indians in Charlestown has very much improved. Since October 1838, the State has annually supported a school among them ; and since the year 1840, a commissioner has been annually appointed, whose services are paid by the State, to watch over their interests. Very respectfully, yours,

E. R. POTTER.

THOMAS R. HAZARD.

---

### INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The Committee to whom was referred the joint vote of the two Houses, passed June, A. D. 1836, and the several petitions and papers before the two Houses, relating to the affairs of the tribe of Narragansett Indians, report—

That they have several times appointed a time and place, and notified a meeting of the committee ; but unfavorable circumstances prevented the meeting taking place.

The complaints made by the members of the tribe may be reduced to a few heads.

First—trespasses committed upon their lands by white people, and the difficulty of ascertaining the title to their lands. The title of the tribe to the lands they hold, rests upon their ancient and undisputed possession, and upon an agreement (see Act of 1713) made with them by a Committee of the General Assembly, appointed October, 1708, in pursuance of which, the then Indian Sachem, Ninigret, by deed, March 28th, 1709, quit claim to the colony, all Indian lands whatever ; except a tract bounded as follows :—“ Beginning where

the brook that Joseph Davill's mills standeth, and runs into the great salt pond—and so from said brook, on a straight line notherly, to Pesquamscut pond and by the brook that runs out of said pond, into Paucatuck River, so along by Paucatuck River, westward, until it comes to Benjamin Burdick's bridge; and from thence southerly, towards Wequapoge, until it meets the grand road—and so along by said road eastward, until it come near to Christopher Champlin's now dwelling house; and from thence south, to the great pond of salt water—and so along by the pond side to the first mentioned bound, as it is drawn out upon the draught of the vacant lands."

The land thus reserved has been repeatedly confirmed to the Indians by Acts of Assembly; and of course all of it now belongs to them, except what has been legally sold out of it. Whenever the Sachems or a Committee sold land, they generally sold by survey. There have generally been in existence, laws prohibiting sales of Indian lands. But it is believed that from August 1759, to June 1763—and from August 1763, to September 1770, there were no restrictions in force, and large quantities of their lands were sold. Besides, considerable tracts have been, at different times, sold in pursuance of special Acts of the Assembly; (see schedule, Oct., 1768.) The records of the Assembly show that the Indians have been continually complaining of the encroachments of the white people upon them. By the report of a Committee made 1790, it appears that their lines were, at that time, resurveyed.

The present Act for preventing trespasses on Indian lands by white people, is of no effect; as it requires actions therefor, to be commenced in the name of the "Treasurer of the tribe," and there is now no such officer. That a great deal of imposition is practised upon the tribe, by carrying off their wood, or pretending to buy it of those who have no right to sell it, cannot be doubted. It can only be prevented by a law with severe penalties.

Another source of difficulty, is, there not being guided by any certain rules regulating the descent of property, and the right of membership of the tribe. These things have generally been governed by custom—explained in case of doubt, by the authority of their council.

The only legislative action, having reference to the right of membership, is contained in "an Act for regulating the affairs of the Narragensett tribe of Indians, in this State," passed February 7th, 1792; which regulates the right of voting for the Council. "It is further voted and resolved—that all the males of said tribe, of twenty-one years of age, shall and may meet together at the school house, their accustomed place of meeting, on the last Tuesday in March, A. D. 1792, and annually and every year on that day, for the purpose of electing their Council, who shall be chosen by a majority of votes, and that in such meeting, and all others, and upon all occasions, every male person of twenty-one years, born of an Indian woman belonging to said tribe, or begotten by an Indian man belonging thereto, of any other than a Negro woman, shall be entitled to a vote."

At what time the Indian Council was established, does not appear. It was probably a notion of their own, in imitation of their white neighbors. It was in existence as far back as October, 1770.

The Committee do not know of any Act providing for or regulating the appointment of a Treasurer of the tribe. In June, 1792, Enoch Crandall was recommended to the Assembly by the tribe for that office, and was appointed. Treasurers were afterwards appointed by special Acts of the Assembly, for no definite period of time—probably until they became too poor to need one.

By the Act last mentioned of February 7th, 1792, a Committee was appointed to draft rules for the regulation of the tribe. This Committee was increased in number and vested with additional powers, by resolutions passed in May and June, 1792; and in December of the same year, adopted a set of rules, which, together with several alterations made in them by subsequent Committees, we have appended hereto. These regulations relate principally to the making of leases, and support of the poor. But one of them, No. 3, introduces among the Indians the Statute rules of descent, thus virtually doing away with any rules derived from their old customs and usages. But since the discontinuance of the office of Treasurer, who acted generally as a sort of overseer of the





14 DAY USE  
RETURN TO DESK FROM WHICH BORROWED  
**LOAN DEPT.**

This book is due on the last date stamped below,  
or on the date to which renewed. Renewals only:

Tel. No. 642-3405

Renewals may be made 4 days prior to date due.  
Renewed books are subject to immediate recall.

AUG 20 1971 5 2

REC'D LIB JAN 22 '74 -12 PM

JAN 3 1976 7 9

Renewed - 3 February 1976

REC. CIR. FEB 3 '76

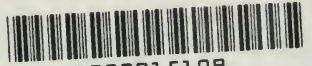
APR 12 1986

REC. CIR JUN 2 1986

LD21A-50m-2,'71  
(P2001s10)476-A-32

General Library  
University of California  
Berkeley

GENERAL LIBRARY - U.C. BERKELEY



8000915109

